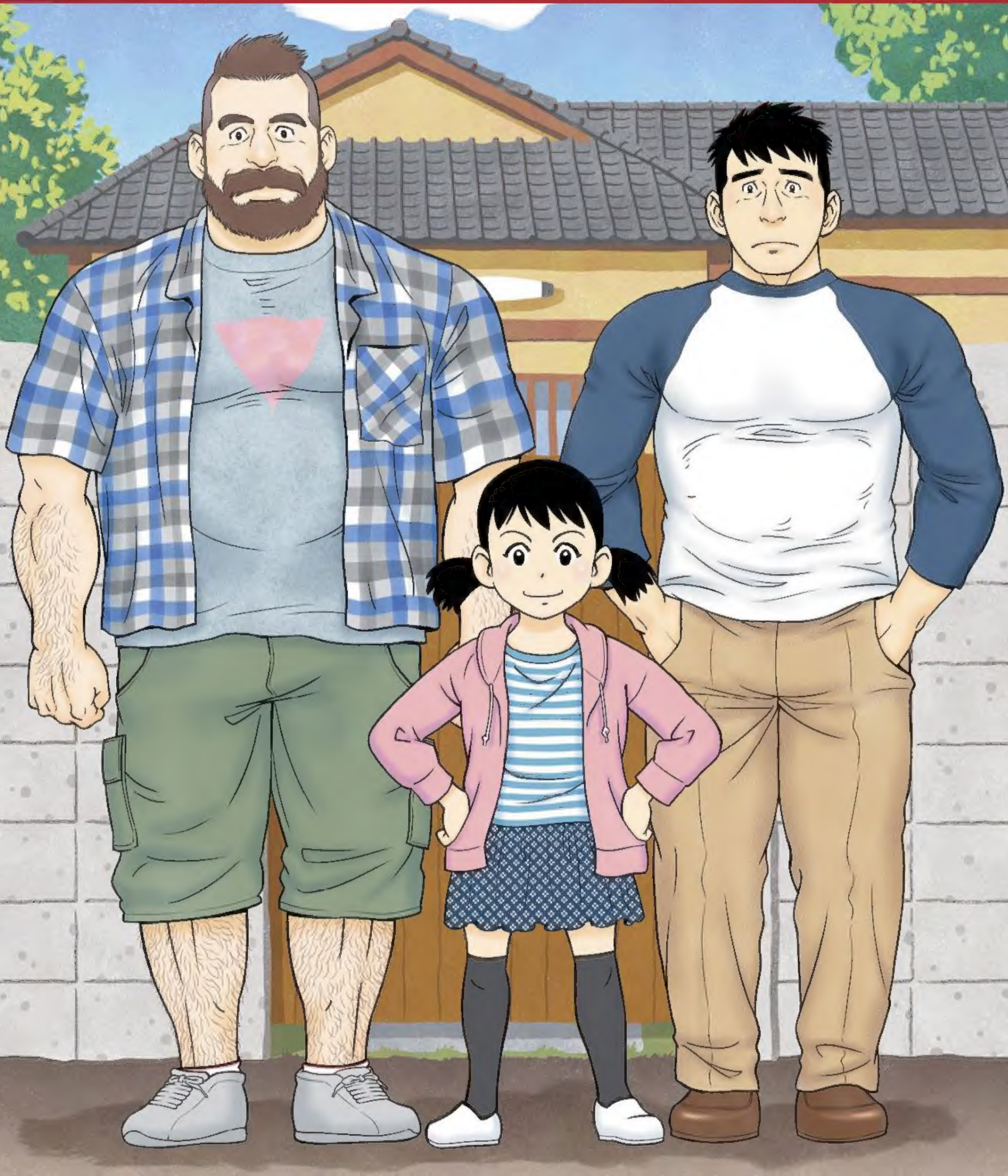
# MY BROTHER'S HUSBAND

VOLUME 1

GENGOROH TAGAME



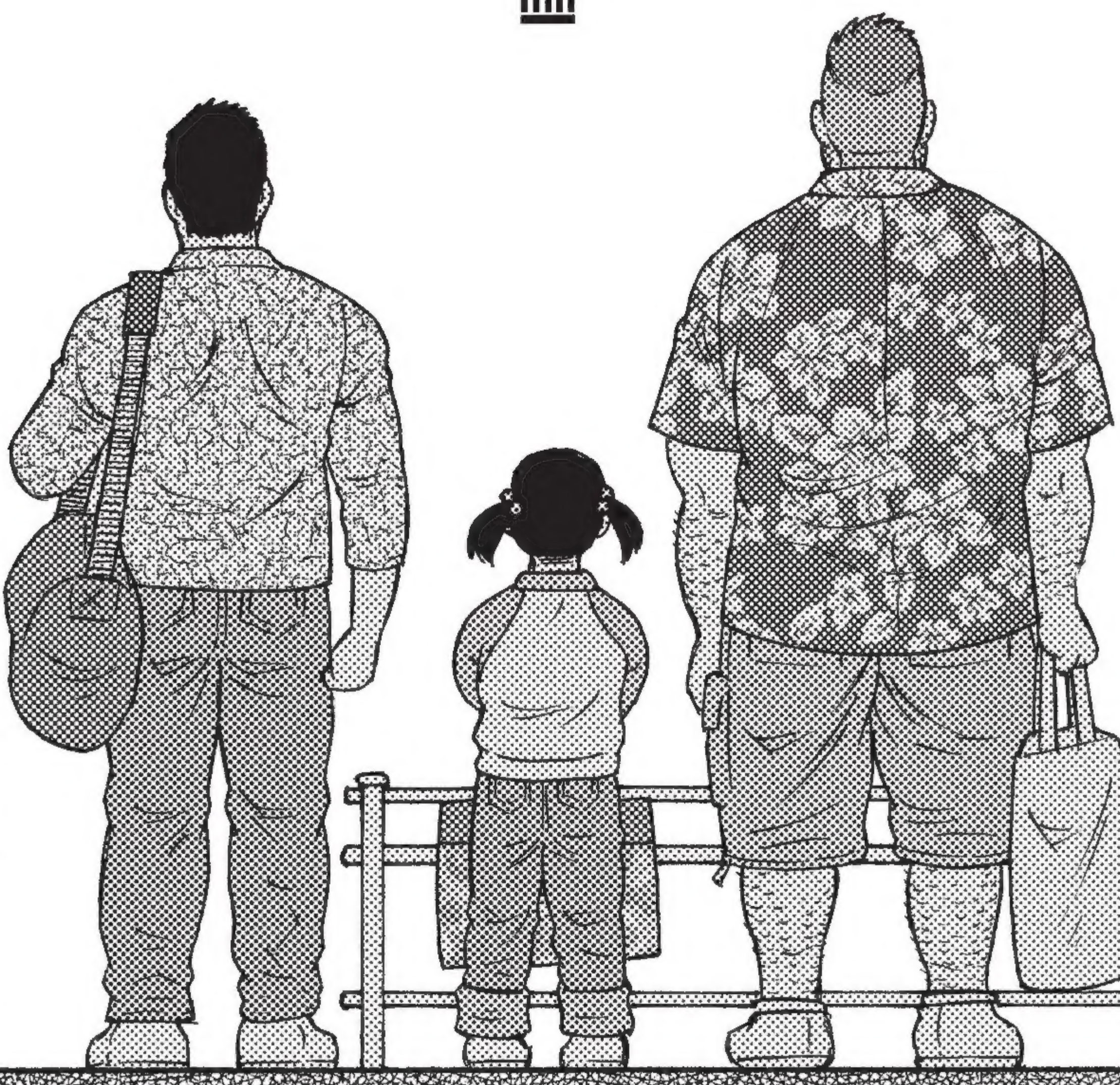
# MY BROTHER'S HUSBAND

## VOLUME 1

GENGOROH TAGAME

TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE BY ANNE ISHII

PANTHEON BOOKS, NEW YORK



THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES, AND INCIDENTS EITHER ARE THE PRODUCT OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, EVENTS, OR LOCALES IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL.

TRANSLATION COPYRIGHT © 2014 BY ANNE ISHII

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES BY PANTHEON BOOKS, A DIVISION OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC, NEW YORK, AND DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA BY RANDOM HOUSE OF CANADA, A DIVISION OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA LIMITED, TORONTO. ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN JAPAN AS *OTŌTO NO OTTO* BY FUTABASHA PUBLISHERS LTD., TOKYO, IN 2014. COPYRIGHT © 2014 BY GENGOROH TAGAME. THIS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDITION PUBLISHED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FUTABASHA PUBLISHERS LTD., TOKYO.

PANTHEON BOOKS AND COLOPHON ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA
NAMES: TAGAME, GENGOROH, [DATE] AUTHOR, ARTIST. ISHII, ANNE, TRANSLATOR.
TITLE: MY BROTHER'S HUSBAND / GENGOROH TAGAME ; TRANSLATED BY ANNE ISHII.
OTHER TITLES: OTOUTO NO OTTO. ENGLISH.
DESCRIPTION: FIRST AMERICAN EDITION. NEW YORK : PANTHEON, 2017.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2016047082 (PRINT). LCCN 2016050241 (EBOOK).
ISBN 9781101871515 (V. 1 : HARDCOVER). ISBN 9781101871522 (EBOOK).
SUBJECTS: LCSH: GAY MEN--JAPAN--COMIC BOOKS, STRIPS, ETC. GRAPHIC NOVELS.
BISAC: FICTION/FAMILY LIFE. COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS/LITERARY.
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS/MANGA/GAY & LESBIAN.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN6790.J33 T255613 2017 (PRINT).
LCC PN6790.J33 (EBOOK). DDC 741.5/952--DC23
LC RECORD AVAILABLE AT LCCN.LOC.GOV/2016047082

WWW.PANTHEONBOOKS.COM

JACKET AND CASE ILLUSTRATION BY GENGOROH TAGAME
JACKET AND CASE DESIGN BY CHIP KIDD
PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE BY JOHN KURAMOTO

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FIRST AMERICAN EDITION

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

BOTH THE PARENTS?

YEAH.

THE BUS FLIPPED OVER ON THE HIGHWAY AND...

THAT'S JUST HORRIBLE.

SO STOIC.

HASN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR...

AND THERE'S YAICHI, BEING THE TOUGH OLDER BROTHER.

RYO COULDN'T STOP CRYING.

HOW SAD...

CHAPTER ONE

## *THE BLACK SHIPS ARRIVE*

トトトトトトトトトトトトトト

ピピピピピピピピピピ

BEEP

=SIGH=

I HAVEN'T DREAMT ABOUT THEM IN SO LONG...

MNN...

NATSUKI.

NOT YOU, THOUGH. I ALWAYS DREAM ABOUT YOU!

ジュウウウウ

SIZZLE

SNAP

DING

HEY, KANA!

KANA!

AHH HOT HOT HOT...

YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!

MILK

KANA!

HURRY UP AND COME DOWN FOR BREAKFAST!

GO WASH YOUR FACE!

BREAKFAST'S GETTING COLD!

NN...

MORNING, DAD.

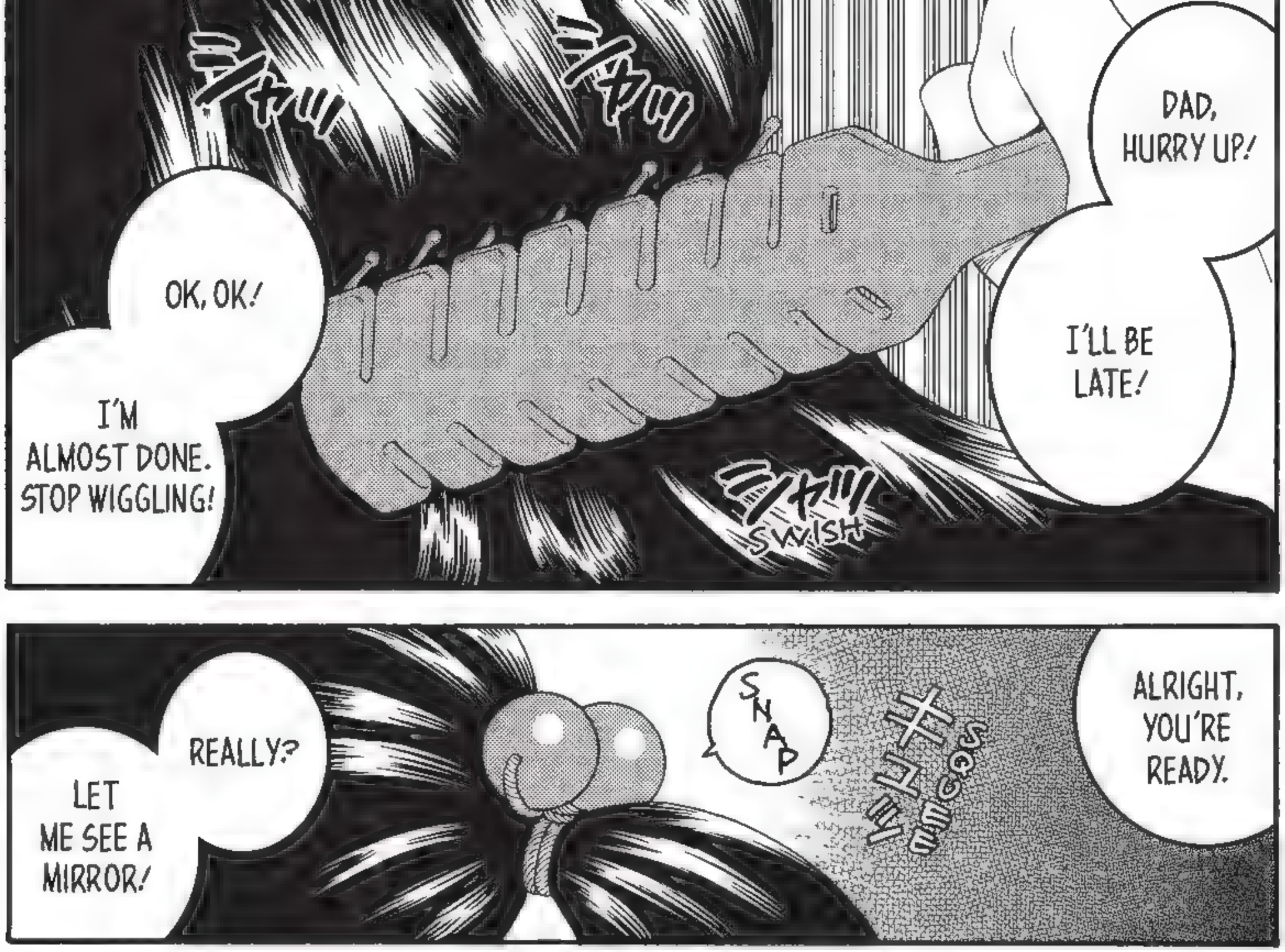
FWAAAWN

DRINK YOUR MILK!

DON'T PUT ON SO MUCH!

THAT'S TOO MUCH JAM!

DAD, WHERE'S THE JAM?


DAD, HURRY UP!
I'LL BE LATE!
SWISH
OK, OK!
I'M ALMOST DONE. STOP WIGGLING!
ALRIGHT, YOU'RE READY.
SNAP
SQUEEE
REALLY?
LET ME SEE A MIRROR!

WHIRR
ALRIGHT, I'M OFF!

AWW!
C'MON. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT.
DON'T WORRY, YOU LOOK PRETTY.

WAIT, KANA!

UH...

IT'S NOTHING... JUST WATCH OUT FOR CARS.

WHAT, DAD?

カラカラカラ KRRR

THUMP

:OOPH:

I KNOW WHY I DREAMT ABOUT THEM.

VRR

VRR

HYUN...

IS THE DAY.

:SIGH:

IT'S BECAUSE TODAY...

TOK TOK TOK

DING DONG

ガラッ

CREAK

I MEAN. THANKS FOR COMING...
UH... I MEAN.
HOW'S...

ガ

GRAB

!!

WHY YOU!

. . .

WTF?!

LET GO, YOU HOMO!

はっ AH

<OH MY GOD. SORRY! SORRY!>*

はっ WAH

ギャーーーーーーーー SQUEEEEEEEEE

I'M SORRY, BUT... COULD YOU NOT...

* IN ENGLISH

I GUESS IT'S FINE.

...

SO MUCH LIKE RYOJI.

I'M SORRY!

YOU JUST LOOKED...

ANYWAY, WELCOME.

COME ON IN.

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

カチャ カチャ カチャ カチャ

カチャ カチャ カチャ

CLINK...
カチャ...

SO...

I'M...

COULD YOU NOT CALL ME THAT...?

I'M SORRY, YAICHI-SAN.

I'M SORRY... YOU FIRST.

NO, PLEASE, YOU FIRST, BROTHER.

SO...

I'M HOME!

ガラ

CREAK

ガラリ

WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?

COME MEET OUR GUEST.

HELLO.

YES, HELLO!

WHO IS THIS?

OH.

KANA, COME SIT OVER HERE.

HA. I AM NOT A FOREIGNER.

I AM CANADIAN!

WHOA!

A *GAIJIN*!

*GAIJIN* MEANS "FOREIGNER" AND CAN BE DEROGATORY.

THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, KANA.

I AM KANA!

I AM MIKE FLANAGAN, FROM CANADA!

NICE TO MEET YOU, KANA!

DON'T BE RUDE!

"WHO IS HE"?!

DAD?

WHO IS HE?

KANA-CHAN, I AM...

YOUR UNCLE.

WHAT....?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I MARRIED YOUR DAD'S BROTHER IN CANADA.

THAT MAKES ME YOUR UNCLE!

MEN CAN MARRY EACH OTHER?!

DADDY HAS A BROTHER ?!

IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED?!

WHAT?!

YES.

YES, WE CAN.

NO, THEY CAN'T!

UH...

WELL...

WHICH IS IT?

SO...

THAT'S WEIRD.

HUH?

IN JAPAN IT'S NOT ALLOWED, BUT I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

WELL, IT'S LIKE...

I KNOW!

MEN MARRYING EACH OTHER *IS* WEIRD.

IT'S WEIRD THAT IT'S OK OVER THERE,

BUT NOT HERE.

000

YES!

WANNA SEE?

I HAVE PICTURES!

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...

...

AND, ANYWAY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A BROTHER, DAD!

WHAT'S HE LIKE?!

WOW!

THIS...

IS RYOJI.

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE DAD!

BUT MOSTLY THE SAME!

DAD, LOOK AT THIS!

HE LOOKS THE SAME...

BUT DIFFERENT...

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE.

WE'RE TWINS.

OF COURSE HE DOES.

THAT'S OK. I DON'T NEED TO SEE.

BUT DAD, HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE YOU!

TWINS?!

I HAD NO IDEA!

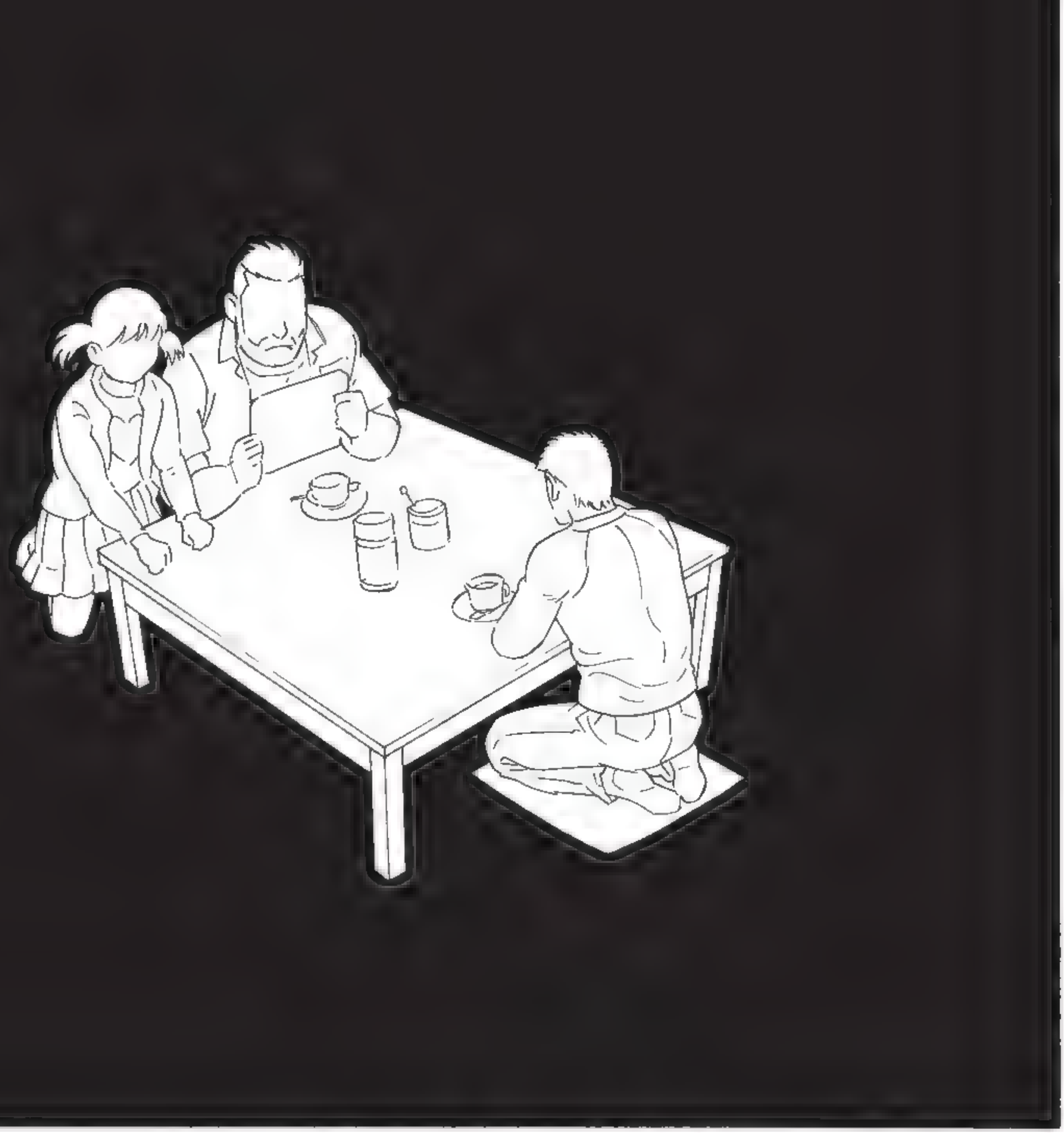
WHERE IS HE NOW?

HE'S IN HEAVEN.

...

LAST MONTH.

HE MEANS HE DIED.



HE LEFT TEN YEARS AGO.

DIDN'T SO MUCH AS KEEP IN TOUCH.

THAT IS...

THE GIST OF IT.

AND THEN...

DIED.

GOT MARRIED TO ANOTHER MAN,

TO THIS HUGE FOREIGNER.

HE... DIED?

YES.

WE'VE ONLY JUST MET...

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW AND I.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THIS?

CHAPTER TWO

# TEMPURA SUSHI

WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?

DO YOU HAVE A HOTEL, OR...

CALL ME MIKE, PLEASE.

SO, MR. FLANAGAN.

ISN'T HE STAYING HERE?

HUH?

OK... MIKE.

COU-SIN?

THEY STAYED HERE FOR SO LONG!

LAST YEAR, DAD'S COUSIN CAME TO VISIT.

H-HEY, KANA...

YOU'RE A RELATIVE, SO YOU SHOULD STAY HERE, TOO!

BUT, YAICHI-SAN...

IS THAT OK?

STOP MEDDLING, KANA!

NO, IT'S NOT OK!

IF IT WORKS FOR YOU...

OF COURSE... IT'S OK.

YES!

THEN IT'S SET!

HOPE THIS ROOM SUITS YOU.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

TATAMI MATS!

I ADORE *FUTONS* AND *TATAMI!*

WE DON'T HAVE BEDS. YOU'LL HAVE TO SLEEP ON A *FUTON.*

OH NO, I'M GLAD!

I'M SORRY...

I AM A JAPANOPHILE. AN *OTAKU!*

THAT SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF A STRETCH, BUT...

ADORE...

UM, MIKE...

...

RYOJI ALWAYS MADE FUN OF ME ABOUT IT.

RIGHT...

THIS WAS HIS ROOM, ACTUALLY.

IF...IF THAT'S TOO PAINFUL FOR YOU,

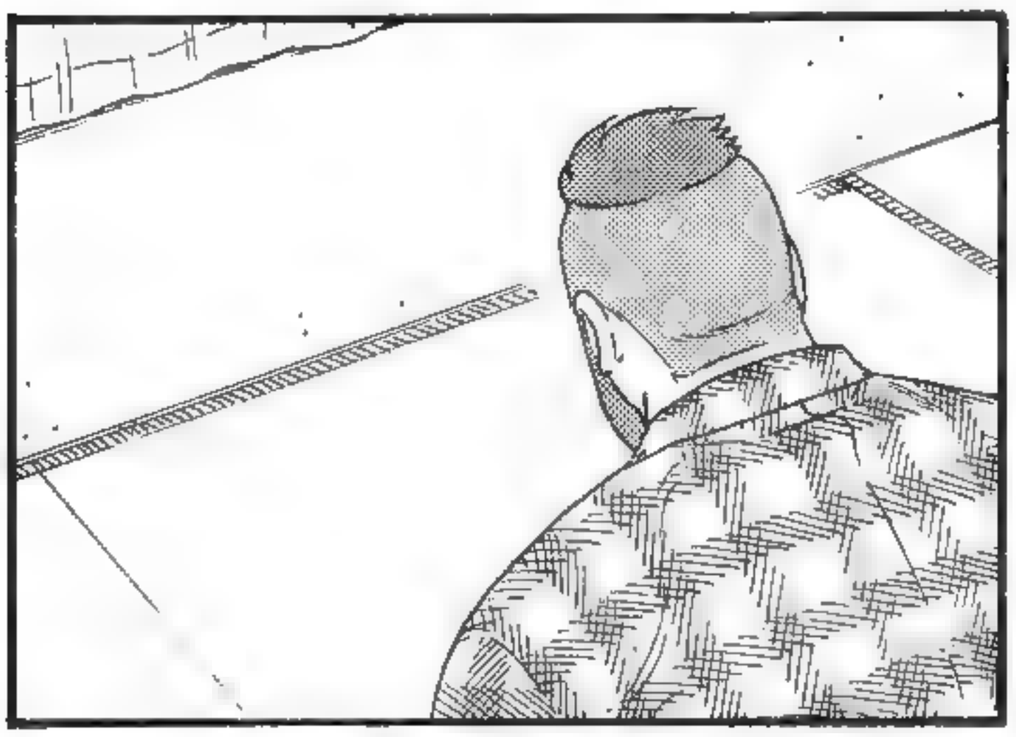
I CAN PUT YOU IN ANOTHER...

REALLY?

YES.

NO!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, YAICHI-SAN.



WELL, I GUESS YOU HAVE SOME UNPACKING TO DO, SO...
I'LL SEE YOU FOR DINNER?
JUST CALL IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
YES!

I SHOULD SEE IF HE'S OK WITH RAW FISH.

HMM...

MAYBE I'LL ORDER SUSHI.

DINNER...

MI...

RYOJI...

DADDY, WHERE'S MIKE?

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

KANA!

HE MARRIED YOUR BROTHER!

BUT MIKE...

MAKING MIKE STAY HERE AND ALL.

HUH? WHAT DID I DO?

ACTUALLY, I WISH YOU'D KEPT QUIET EARLIER, TOO.

DID I...?

WELL, WHEN YOUR COUSIN CAME TO VISIT, YOU TOTALLY INSISTED HE STAY OVER.

RIGHT...

SO HE'S YOUR BROTHER AND MY UNCLE, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

OH, NO. SUSHI IS BEST WITH GREEN TEA.

ZUUU SSLP

WOULD YOU PREFER COFFEE OR BLACK TEA?

IS DELICIOUS!

KANA-CHAN, THIS TEA YOU BREWED...

REALLY?

I GUESS...

REALLY?! LIKE WHAT?

HMM, LIKE...

EVEN SUSHI THAT YOU DON'T HAVE IN JAPAN!

YES, THERE IS.

HEY, IS THERE SUSHI IN CANADA, MIKE?

IF THIS WERE MY BROTHER'S WIFE...

KANA'S RIGHT.

I MIGHT WAVER A LITTLE...

BUT I'D ASSUME SHE WOULD STAY HERE,

AND INSIST SHE STAY WITH US EITHER WAY.

IT'S BECAUSE MY BROTHER GOT MARRIED TO A MAN.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT HIM BEING A FOREIGNER OR MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

HOW TO INTERACT WITH HIM.

AND I STILL HAVE NO IDEA...

GROSS!

MIKE SAYS THEY PUT TEMPURA IN SUSHI IN CANADA!

HUH?

DAD!

DAD, ARE YOU LISTENING?!

AH

ほっ

IT'S DELICIOUS!

RYOJI LOVED IT.

WHAT DO I THINK?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, DAD?

HUH? REALLY?

I COULDN'T SAY UNTIL I TRIED IT.

IT'S LIKE THAT, I GUESS.

HUH...

MAYBE MARRIAGE BETWEEN MEN

IS LIKE TEMPURA IN SUSHI FOR ME.

KANA,

CAN YOU CHECK IF THE BATH IS READY?

RIGHT NOW

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT TASTES LIKE OR HOW IT'S CONSUMED.

FIRST? ME?

YES, DAD.

IT'S CUSTOMARY TO LET GUESTS BATHE FIRST, IN JAPAN.

HOSPITALITY, I GUESS.

MIKE GETS TO GO IN FIRST TONIGHT, OK?

YOU CAN GO SECOND, KANA.

ALRIGHT, KANA, IT'S YOUR TURN.

THE BATH WAS VERY NICE.

SPLASH

ジャバ

ジャバ

DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST TAKE-OUT PLATES.

LET ME HELP WITH THE DISHES.

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HUH?

UM, CAN I AT LEAST PAY FOR DINNER?

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

JUST RELAX AND WATCH SOME TELEVISION.

BUT...

REALLY. IT'S OK. I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I NEED IT.

OR ACTUALLY, YOU MUST BE TIRED. YOU CAN JUST GO TO BED.

YES!

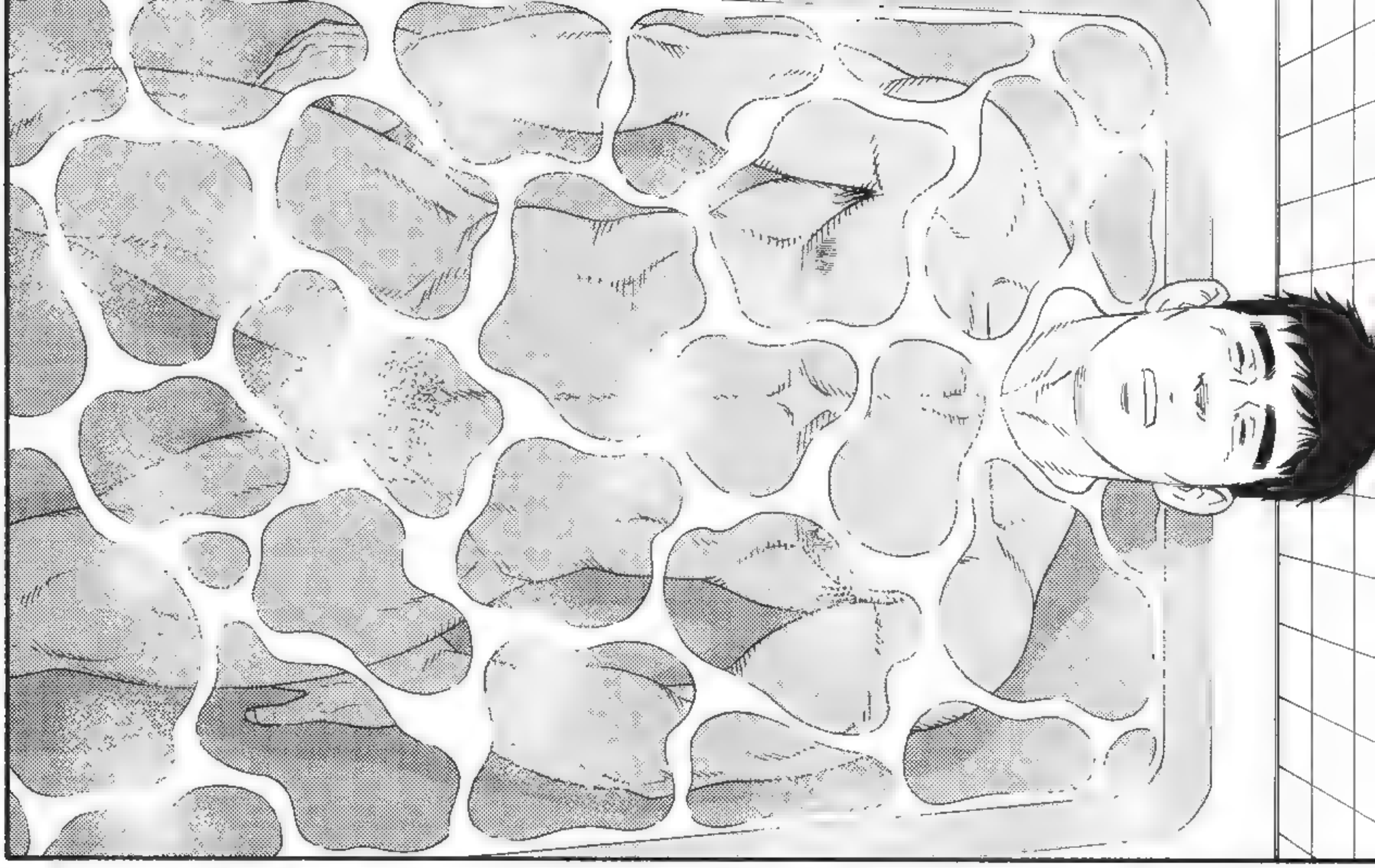
OK!

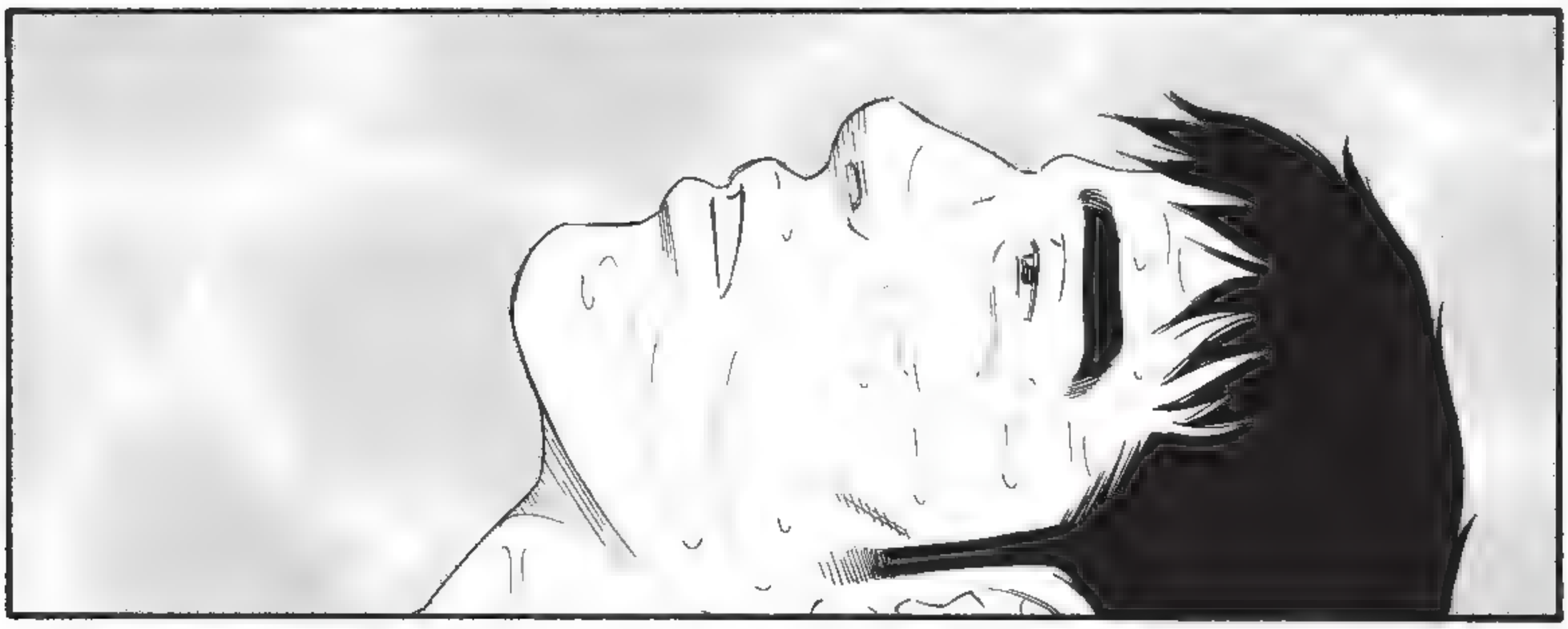
WAIT, THAT WAS FAST. ARE YOU SURE?

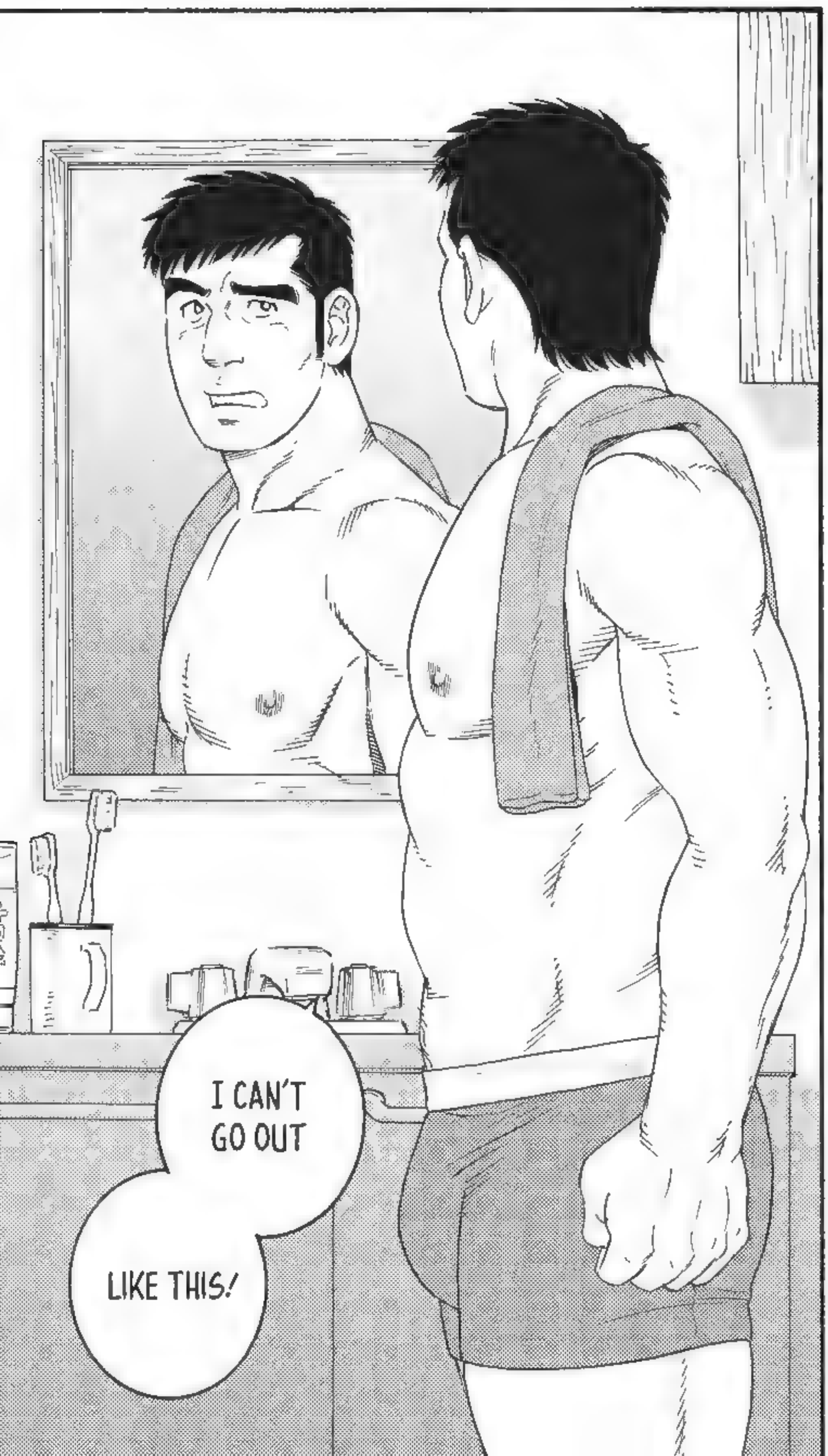
DADDY! I'M DONE WITH MY BATH!

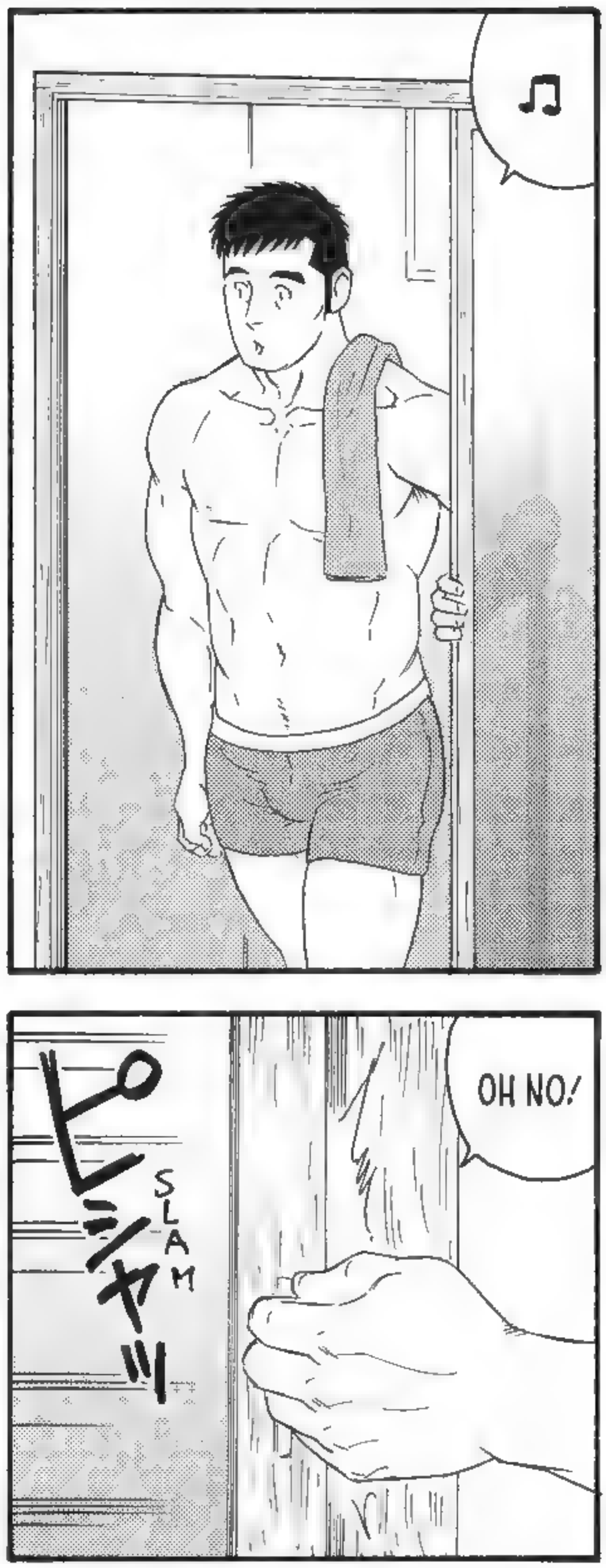
SHAMPOO

RINSE






I CAN'T GO OUT
LIKE THIS!


♫
SLAM
OH NO!

THAT WAY AND ALL...

MIKE BEING

ASSUMING A HOMO WILL HIT ON YOU IF THEY SEE YOU

IS A MISTAKE. THEY DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY MAN.

DON'T BE STUPID.

IT'S LIKE THAT GUY ON TV SAID.

AND HE HUGGED ME AT FIRST SIGHT.

I DO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM.

STILL...

HE WAS MARRIED TO MY IDENTICAL TWIN BROTHER.

YOU'RE WAY TOO SELF-OBSESSED!

YOU'RE OVERTHINKING THIS! STOP THINKING!

WOW, MIKE! AMAZING!

GULP

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS TACT.

WELL, EITHER WAY...

CAN I TOUCH IT? CAN I TOUCH IT, PLEASE?

I'M SURE MIKE IS TIRED.

KANA! LOWER YOUR VOICE!

YOU DOING?

WHAT ARE...

HE'S HAIRY ALL OVER HIS BODY!

HEY, DAD. LOOK!

LOOK AT MIKE'S CHEST!

KANA, GO TO BED.

DAD, YOU'RE WEARING CLOTHES!

MIKE...

PUT YOUR SHIRT BACK ON.

I ALWAYS TELL HIM TO PUT ON CLOTHES BUT HE INSISTS ON BEING NAKED!

DAD USUALLY COMES OUT OF THE BATH IN JUST HIS UNDERWEAR.

KANA!
BED.
NOW!

YES,
DAD...

I'M SURE YOU WANT TO GO TO BED TOO, MIKE.

GOOD NIGHT, KANA-CHAN.

GOOD NIGHT, MIKE!

YES.

GOOD NIGHT, YAICHI-SAN.

YEAH... NIGHT.

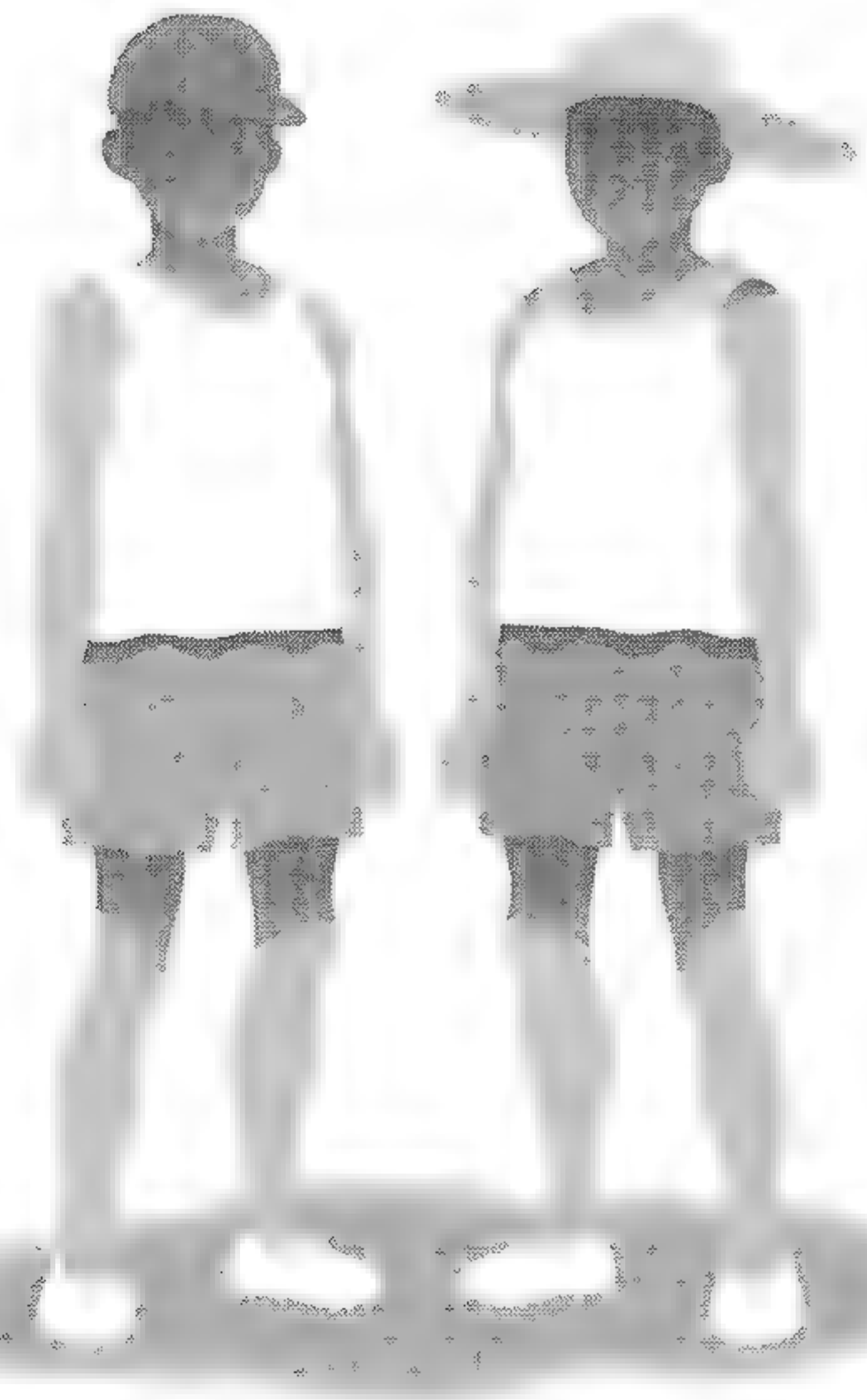
ACTUALLY,

SOUNDS DISGUSTING.

TEMPURA SUSHI

CHAPTER THREE

# *MEMORIES*



CRACKLE

MORNING, DAD.

HEY, KANA!

KANA!

M-MORNING.

WHERE'S MIKE?

STILL SLEEPING.

YOUR FACE...

I WASHED UP.

THEN SIT DOWN FOR BREAK-FAST.

HE'S PROBABLY REALLY JET-LAGGED. LET'S LET HIM SLEEP IN.

WHAT? NO, DON'T DO THAT.

CAN I GO WAKE HIM UP?

THUMP

AGH, I'LL EXPLAIN IT ANOTHER TIME.

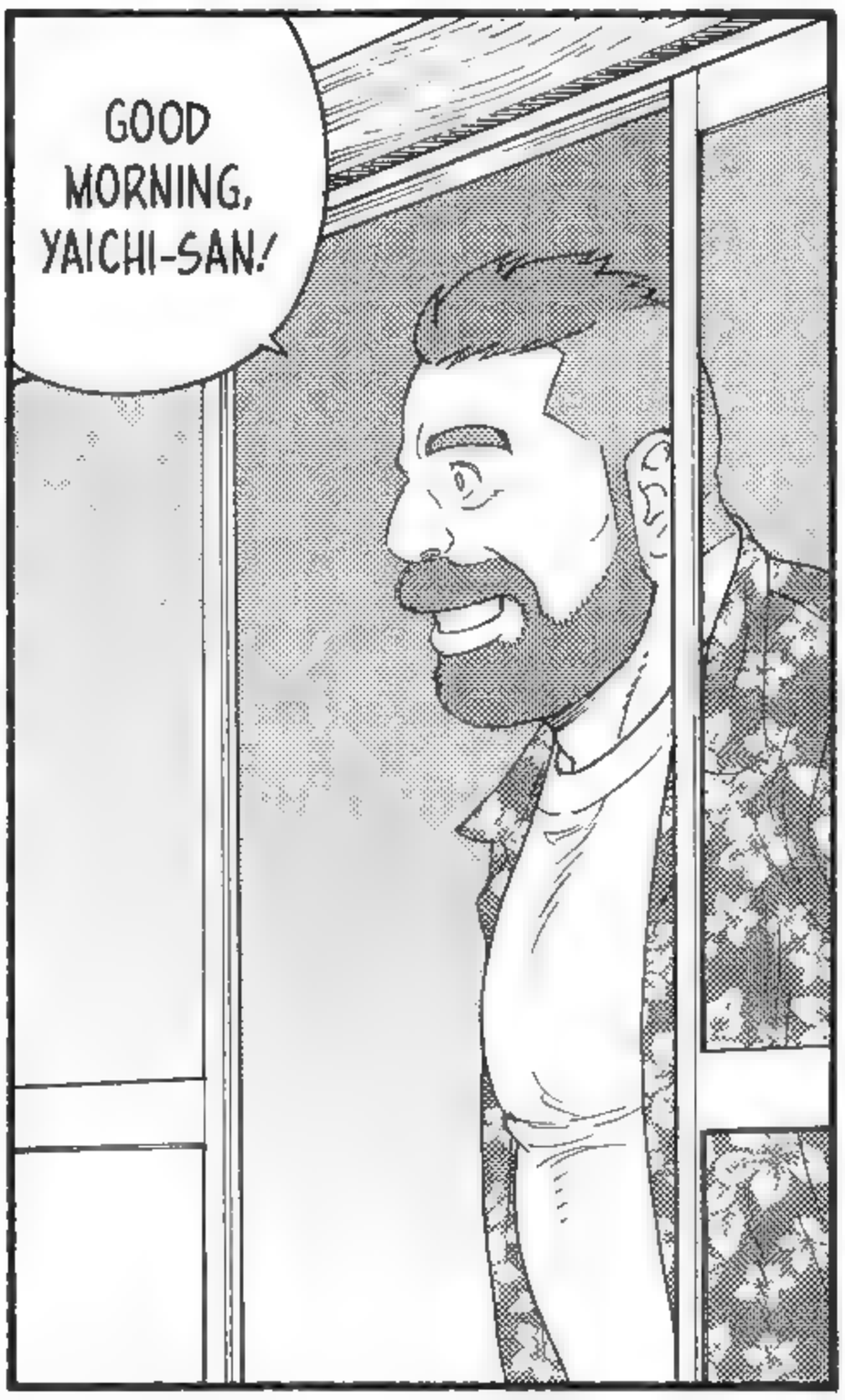
EAT BREAKFAST FOR NOW.

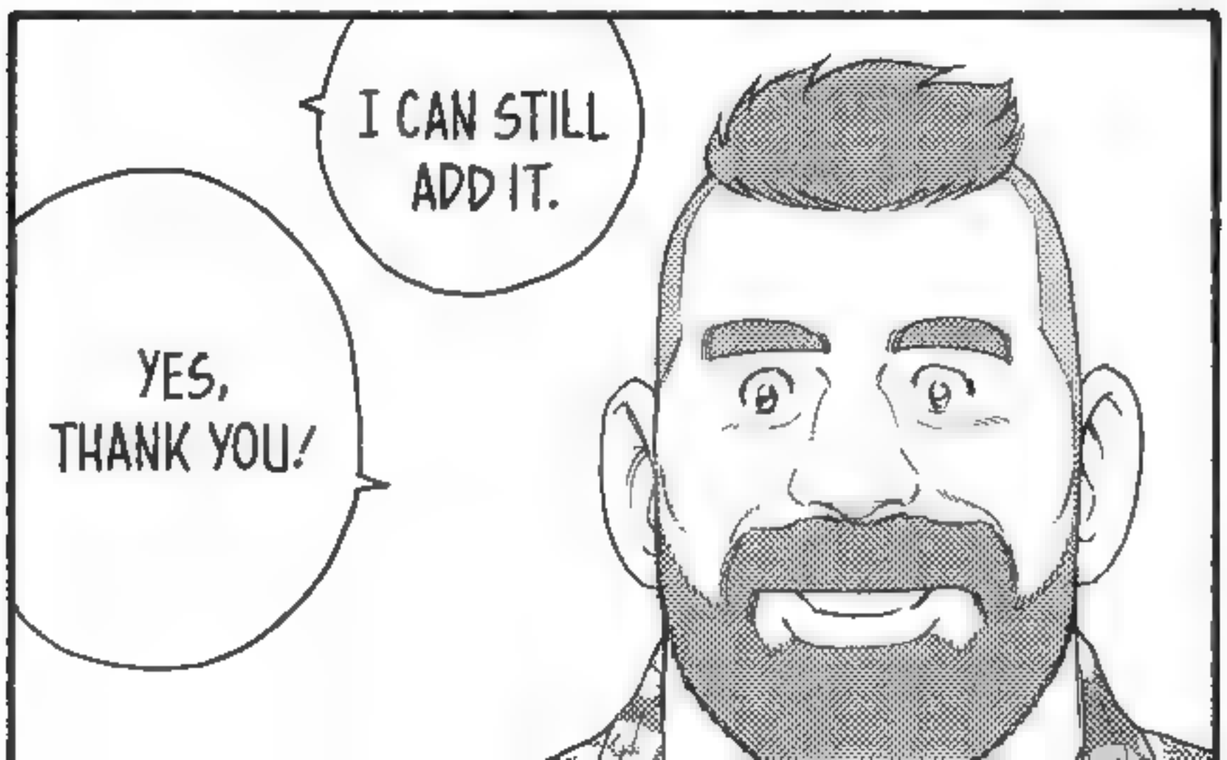
JET LAG IS WHEN YOU...

IT'S UH...

WHAT'S JET LAG MEAN?

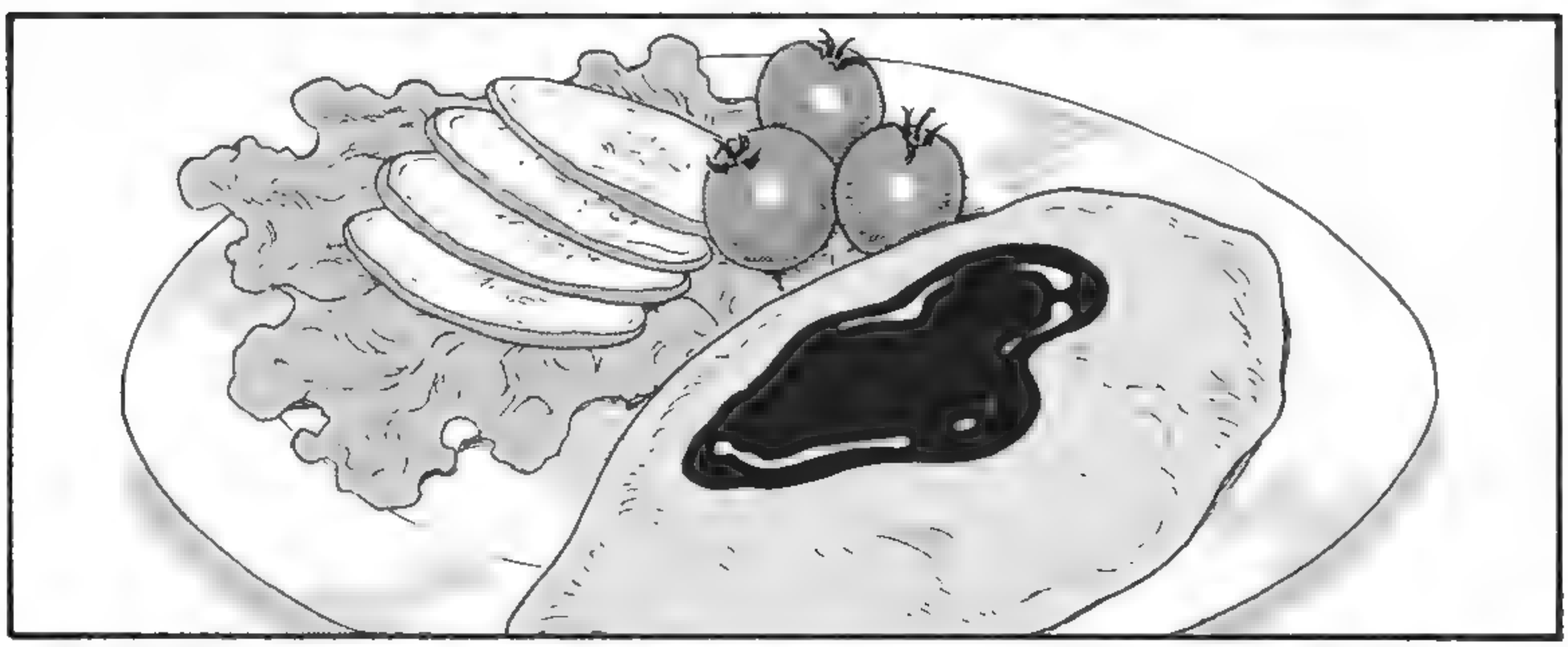
GOT ANY LAUNDRY, MIKE?
MORNING.


GOOD MORNING, YAICHI-SAN!


I CAN STILL ADD IT.
YES, THANK YOU!

NOW, NOW.
HOW MANY EGGS?
TWO, PLEASE!

ARE YOU OK WITH AN OMELETTE AND TOAST FOR BREAKFAST?
OH, I CAN MAKE IT MYSELF.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SURE. HERE'S YOUR COFFEE.

THAT WAS DELICIOUS, THANKS!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE A BREATHER ANYWAY.

YES! MANY PLACES!

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT TO JAPAN BUT DID YOU WANT TO GO ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR?

SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TODAY, MIKE?

HOLD ON, I HAVE IT WRITTEN DOWN.

OH YEAH? WHERE?

KYOTO? AKIHABARA?

"NEMURI GAWAEIOTO BASHU"

?

?

"NISHOKOTO OICHO"

HUH?

THAT LAST ONE. COULD YOU HAVE MEANT *FUKUTOME INARI*?

OH!

"FACTOMA INARI"

?

?

?

THE *NISHO* PLAYGROUND GREAT OAK.

*NAMEGAWA* ROCK BRIDGE, *FUKUTOME INARI* SHRINE...

THESE ARE ALL LOCAL...

YES.

ACTUALLY, CAN I SEE THAT LIST?

YES.

I HEARD MANY STORIES FROM RYOJI ABOUT THEM.

HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS BIG BROTHER, YAICHI,

ALL THE FUN TIMES YOU HAD TOGETHER.

WHEN I CAME TO JAPAN,

I PROMISED MYSELF TO SEE

ALL THOSE PLACES.

YAICHI-SAN?

YAICHI-SAN?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

HUH? OH.

I'M JUST OVER-WHELMED.

I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THOSE THINGS...

I MEAN...

OH, YEAH. NO...

SHOCKED, ACTUALLY.

I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.

COMPLETELY.

YOU TWO REALLY GOT ALONG, DIDN'T YOU?

HUH? REALLY?

I MEAN, WE WERE BROTHERS. THAT'S NORMAL.

NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT,

WE WERE VERY CLOSE AS CHILDREN.

WHEN DID I DRIFT APART FROM RYOJI?

WHEN DID IT START?

BUT

IT'S NOT LIKE THESE PLACES ARE IN ANY KIND OF GUIDEBOOK.

IT WAS LIKE ONE DAY WE JUST STOPPED TALKING TO EACH OTHER.

EVEN IF YOU WENT LOOKING...

STILL...

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS?

HE WENT ABROAD, ALONE,

MARRIED THIS MIKE.

THUMP

MIKE PROBABLY KNEW RYOJI

BETTER THAN I DID IN THE END.

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

I CAN'T.

IT'S TOO... VIVID.

?

THOUGH I CERTAINLY AM NOT IN THE MOOD FOR IT.

I...

IT WOULD BE EASIER IF SOMEONE LIKE ME SHOWED YOU AROUND.

RIGHT!

WORK!

WORK, THOUGH.

THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE

WILL HAVE A MAP YOU CAN USE.

ALRIGHT, MIKE.

I'LL TAKE YOU PARTWAY THERE.

YES?

I HAVE TO SHOW MY FACE AT WORK ANYWAY.

WHAT DO YOU DO ANYWAY?

NOW, NOW.

I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU COME OUT.

I'M AN *OOYASAN*.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

DIDN'T MY BROTHER TELL YOU?

IT'S PROBABLY NOT SOMETHING HE'D BOAST ABOUT.

AND WE RENT IT TO PEOPLE.

SEE, OUR PARENTS LEFT US THIS APARTMENT.

IT'S NOT ACTUAL *WORK.*

I JUST FEED MYSELF ON WHAT MY PARENTS LEFT US.

WELL, BECAUSE...

WHY NOT?

YOU'RE KANA-CHAN'S DAD.

BUT YAICHI-SAN...

THAT IS VERY FINE WORK, IF YOU ASK ME.

AND CLEAN AND DO LAUNDRY.

YOU MAKE MEALS FOR HER EVERY DAY.

IT'S TRUE!

DAD AND MOM, BOTH DO FINE WORK.

WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.

I GUESS...

NISHIKOTE OICHO

I'VE MARKED THE HOUSE IN RED.

HOME ☆

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

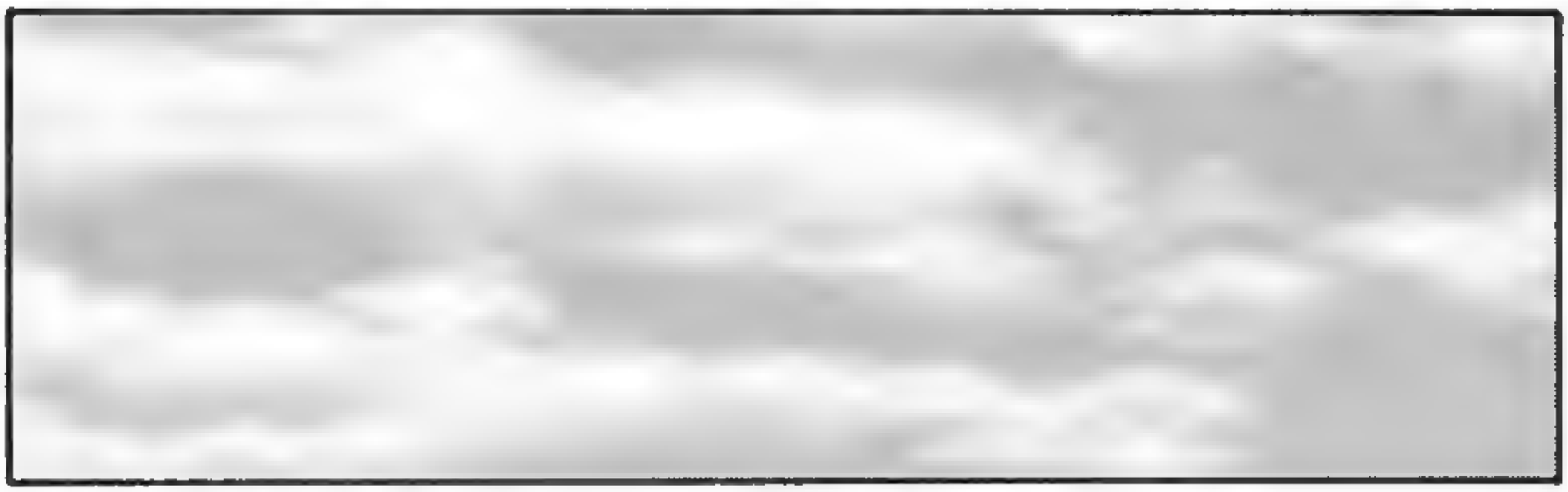
双葉不動産

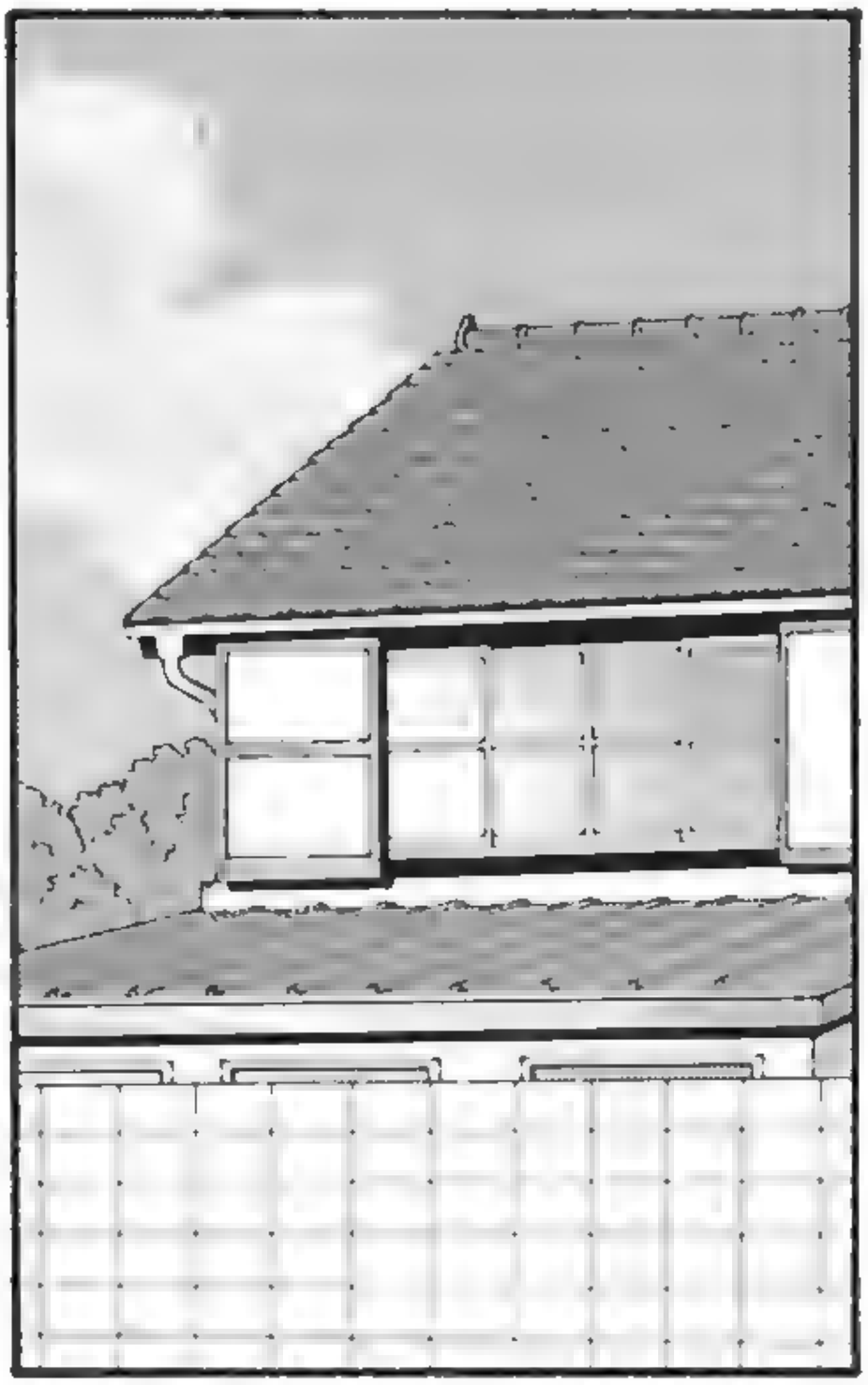
FUTABA REALTY

OK, MIKE.

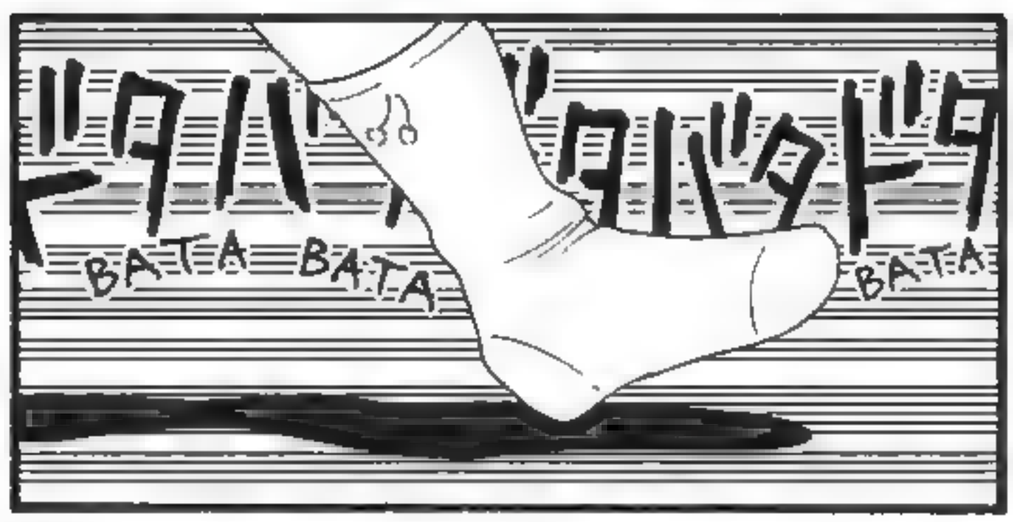
HERE'S THE MAP.

I WILL BE OK!
DON'T GET LOST!





THUD


BA-TA BA-TA
BA-TA

I'M HOME!
KRRR

DADDY, WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE'S MIKE?
HI, KANA.

DADDY'S AT WORK HERE. CAN YOU BE QUIET FOR A MINUTE?

WHERE?!
AWW. WHERE'D HE GO?
HMM? HE WENT OUT.

ARE YOU REALLY THAT INTERESTED IN MIKE?

OH MY GOD, MIKE MIKE MIKE.

C'MON, DAD. WHERE DID MIKE GO?

C'MON, TELL ME!

...

YEAH! I AM!

I MEAN, BECAUSE HE'S CANADIAN.

WHY? BECAUSE HE'S *GAIJIN*...

WHY DO YOU LIKE HIM SO MUCH?

YEAH, CANADA!

IT SOUNDS LIKE KANA! IT SOUNDS LIKE ME!

YOU LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE'S A FOREIGNER?

IN AMERICA?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE CANADA IS, KANA?

THAT'S SILLY!

HE'S GIANT.

HE'S HAIRY LIKE SANTA CLAUS.

ALSO...

ALSO...

*HMM...*

*SHE'S NOT WRONG...*

*IT IS IN NORTH AMERICA, SO...*

*HE'S MY UNCLE!*

ALSO...

THE FACT THAT I HAVE A CANADIAN UNCLE...

IS SO COOL!!

IT'S SO FUN!

...

I GUESS.

...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT, TOO.
MAYBE THAT'S THE WAY...
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
IT *IS* COOL, ISN'T IT.
OH, NOTHING.
*WHAAA?!*
IS IT... COOL?
WELL...

IT REALLY IS...

IT'S REALLY COOL!

OK OK!

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT, DAD?!

HE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

I JUST HOPE HE THINKS IT'S COOL, TOO.

YEAH!

CHAPTER FOUR

# MACARONI AND CHEESE

MIKE'S LATE!

OH GOD.

I HOPE HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY GET LOST.

HMM? OH...

HEY, DAD? MIKE'S LATE!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE'S BEEN GONE A WHILE.

I'M SORRY I'M LATE.

WELCOME BACK, MIKE!

ガラッ
KRRR

I'M BACK!

AH!

DO DO DO

DO DO DO DO

GUROSARI...

OH, GROCERIES!

SORRY! I WAS BUYING *GUROSARI*.

YOU WERE OUT A WHILE.

HEY, MIKE.

KRAFT DINNER!

MAC 'N' CHEESE!

YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO, YOU KNOW.

WHAT WHAT WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?

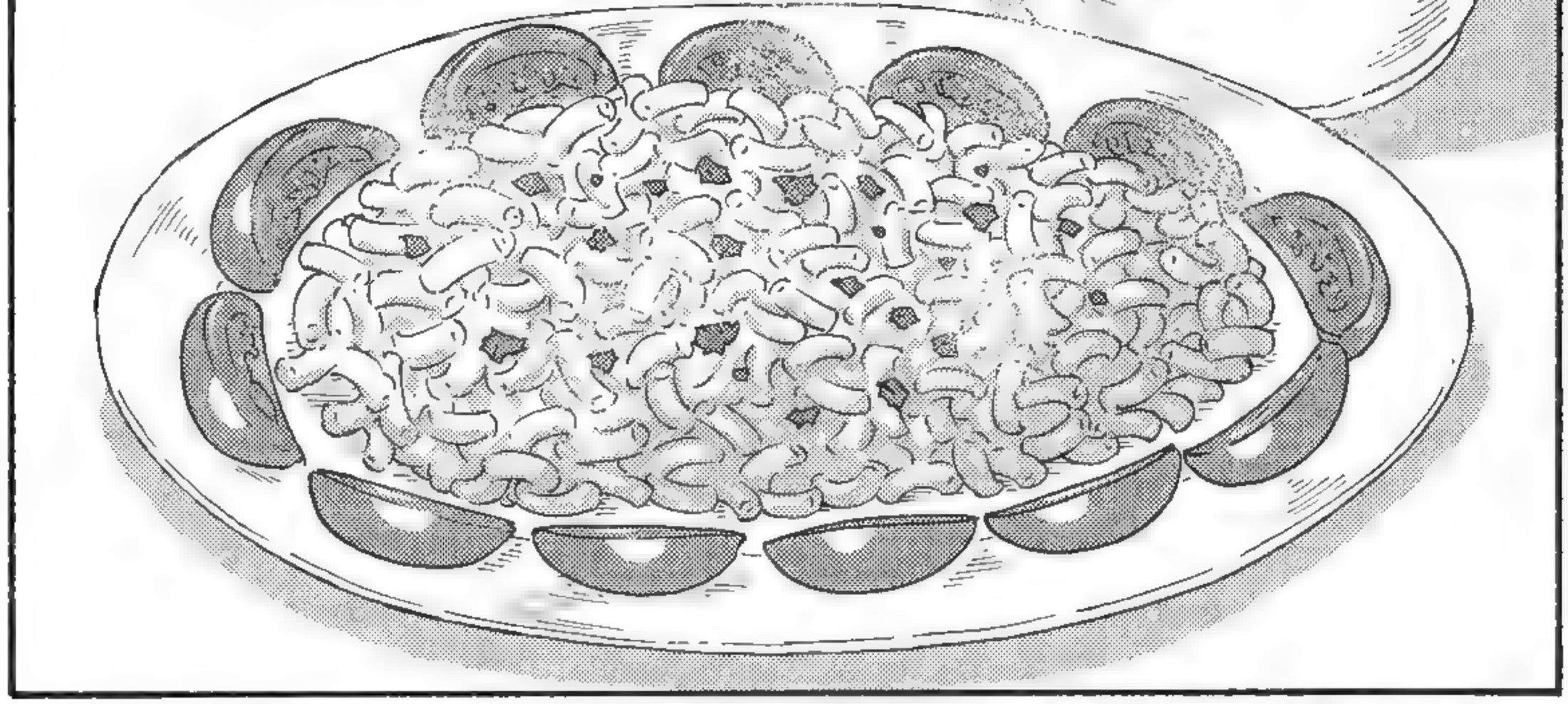
YES!

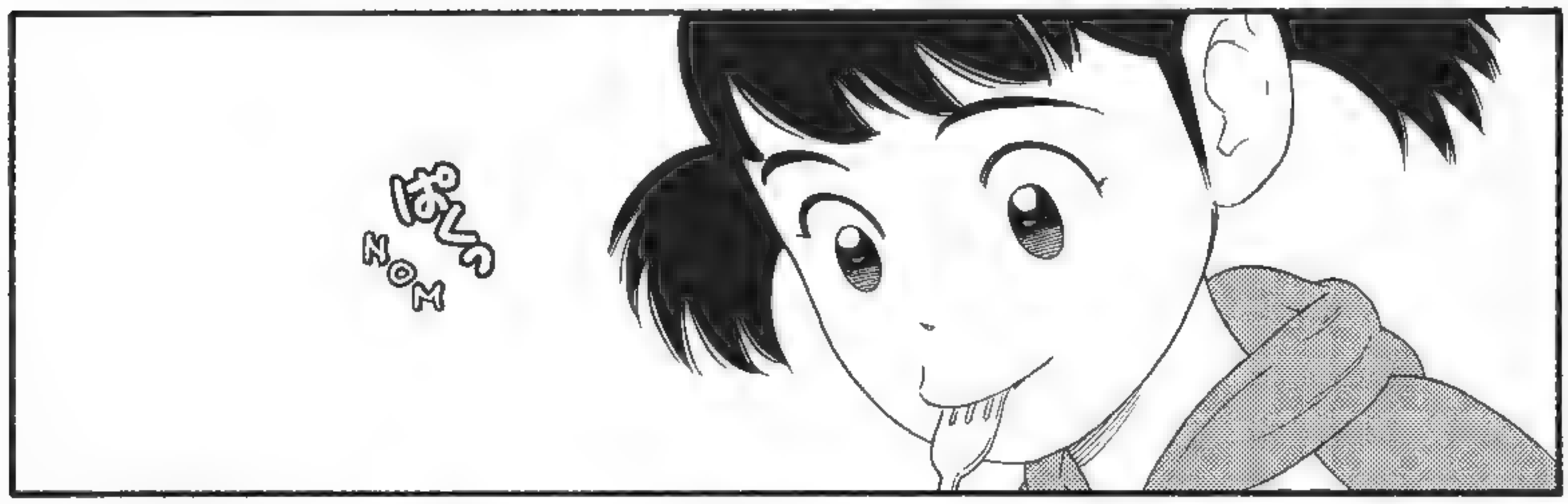
I WILL MAKE DINNER TONIGHT.

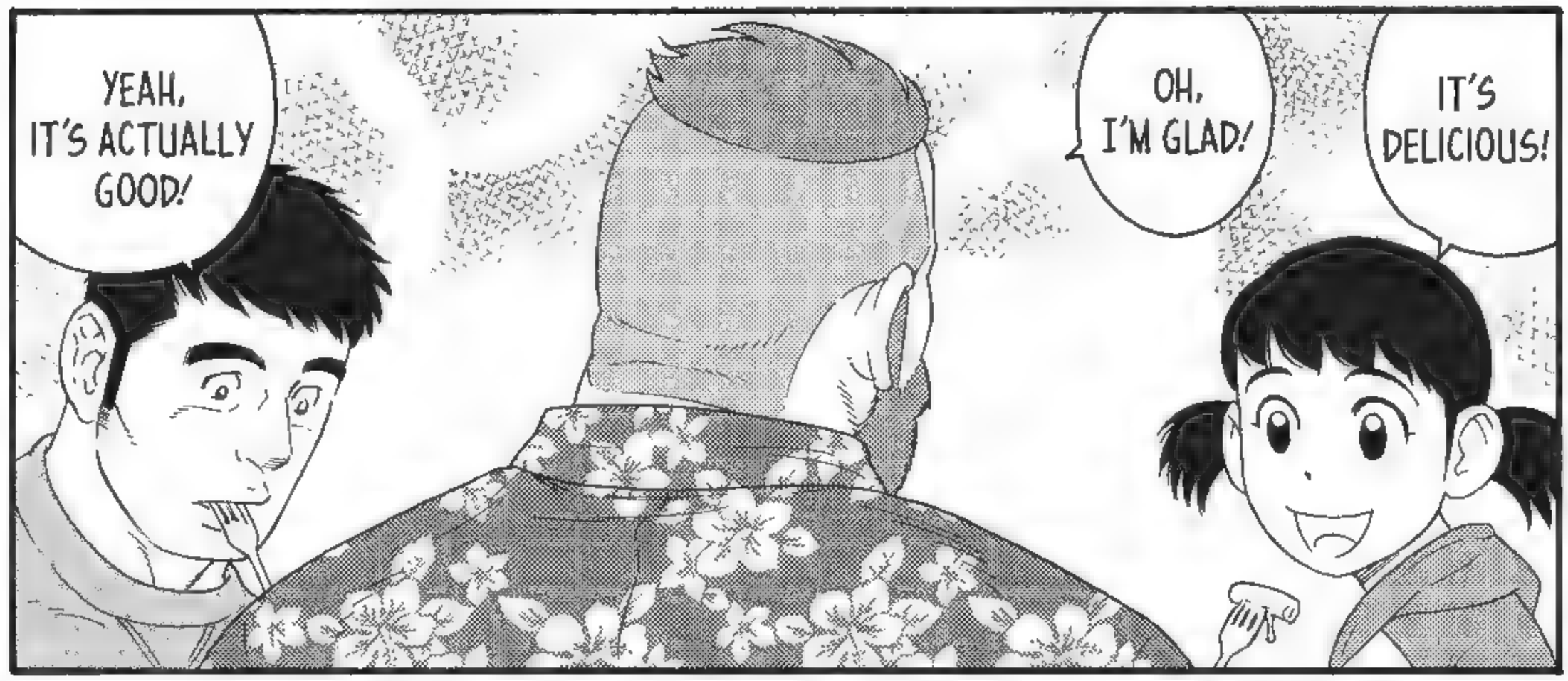
MACARONI?

CHEESE AND...

AWESOME!




ぽしゃ
NOM


YEAH, IT'S ACTUALLY GOOD!
OH, I'M GLAD!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

THIS IS SOMETHING ANYONE CAN MAKE.
I AM NOT GOOD.
YOU'RE A GOOD COOK, MIKE!

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I'M JUST NORMAL.

HE CAN MAKE EVERYTHING!

HEY!

YOU KNOW, DAD IS A GOOD COOK, TOO!

HE WAS REALLY GOOD AT COOKING.

...

RYOJI TOO.

WOW...

RYOJI... COOKING...

YES.

RYOJI COULD COOK?

REALLY?

WHEN HE WAS HERE I NEVER ONCE SAW HIM COOK.

WHICH ONE OF YOU WAS THE HUSBAND AND WHICH WAS THE WIFE?

BEEP

MIKE?

...

YOU AND UNCLE RYOJI...

YES?

WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

KANA!

THERE WAS NO WIFE!

WE ARE BOTH *HAZBAN.*

...

BOTH, HUSBANDS?

...HUH?

*HAZBAN* MEANS "HUSBAND."

WHAT'S *HAZBAN* MEAN?

YEAH?

A WIFE IS A WOMAN, RIGHT?

YEAH.

A HUSBAND IS A MAN, RIGHT?

YEAH.

RYOJI AND I ARE BOTH MEN, RIGHT?

SO MY HUSBAND IS RYOJI.

AND RYOJI'S HUSBAND IS ME!

I GET IT!

...

...

I WENT TO THE *NISHO* PLAYGROUND.

YES.

WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY, MIKE?

WAS THE MAP OF ANY USE?

AND?

OH, REALLY?

THE GREAT OAK WASN'T THERE.

BUT...

AHH, THE *NISHO* PARK.

I'M SORRY, I FORGOT.

OH YEAH, I GUESS IT FELL OVER IN A STORM LAST YEAR.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, ALL OF US, INCLUDING RYOJI...

WOULD PLAY UNDER THAT TREE. LEAPFROG, TAG...

THOSE WERE SUCH FUN TIMES.

MIKE?

I CAN...

SHOW YOU AROUND?

TOMORROW...

REALLY?

I AM VERY HAPPY!

I GUESS IT IS SATURDAY AFTER ALL. WHY NOT?

NO FAIR! I WANNA GO TOO!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

AWWW!

WE SHOULD GET TO BED EARLY THEN, EH?

IT'S A PLAN THEN. THE THREE OF US WILL GO OUT!

I MEAN, JUST INSIDE THIS LITTLE TOWN, BUT...

I'LL BRUSH MY TEETH AND WASH UP NOW!

WHAT IS IT...

RYOJI'S HUSBAND IS ME!

MY HUSBAND IS RYOJI.

SOME-ONE RELIEVED ME

HEARING THOSE WORDS

MY BROTHER MARRIED A MAN.

AND ACTUALLY,

I WAS LIKE KANA.

WHICH ONE WAS THE WIFE?

WITH YOU AND RYOJI, MIKE,

I WAS WONDERING

THE SAME THING.

IT ISN'T JUST WHO IS THE HUSBAND AND WHO IS THE WIFE.

EXCEPT IN MY CASE,

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS, RIGHT?

WHO PLAYED THE MALE? WHO PLAYED THE FEMALE?

NORMALLY,

IS THE LAST THING I'D WANT TO PICTURE.

THE SEX LIFE OF RANDOM MARRIED PEOPLE

IN SUM,

I'D UNCONSCIOUSLY ASSUMED,

COUPLES AND MARRIAGES

I NEED TO ORGANIZE MY THOUGHTS.

ARE NATURALLY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

PERIOD.

I JUST THOUGHT THAT WAS A GIVEN.

I'D LET THAT GOVERN ALL MY ASSUMPTIONS.

BOY...

I ASSUMED ONE HAD TO PLAY THE MALE, THE OTHER, THE FEMALE.

WITHOUT ASKING ANY QUESTIONS.

EVEN IN MY BROTHER AND MIKE'S CASE.

THAT'S JUST WHAT IT IS...

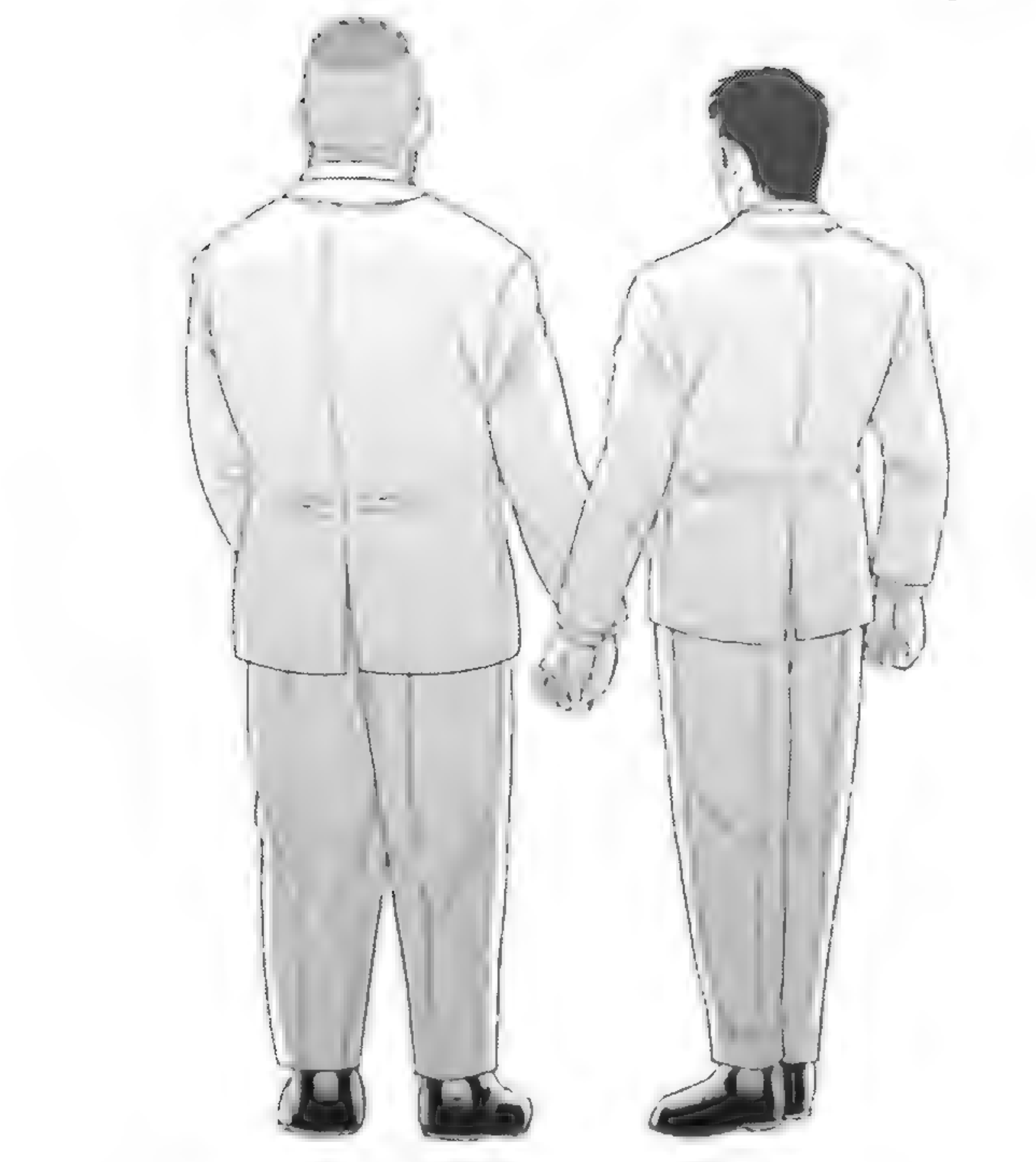
RYOJI'S HUSBAND IS ME.

MY HUSBAND IS RYOJI.

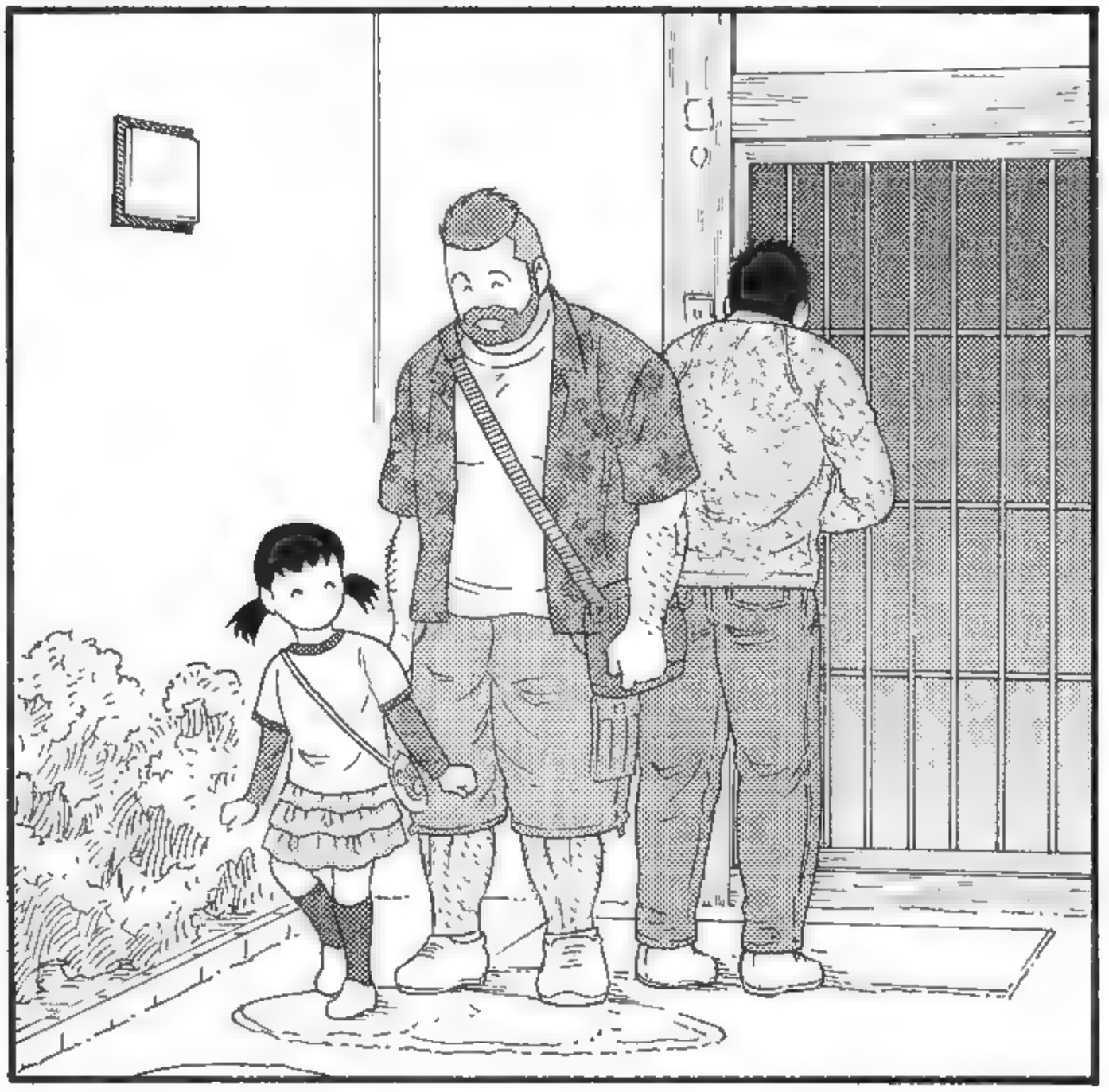
SEE THE TRUTH.

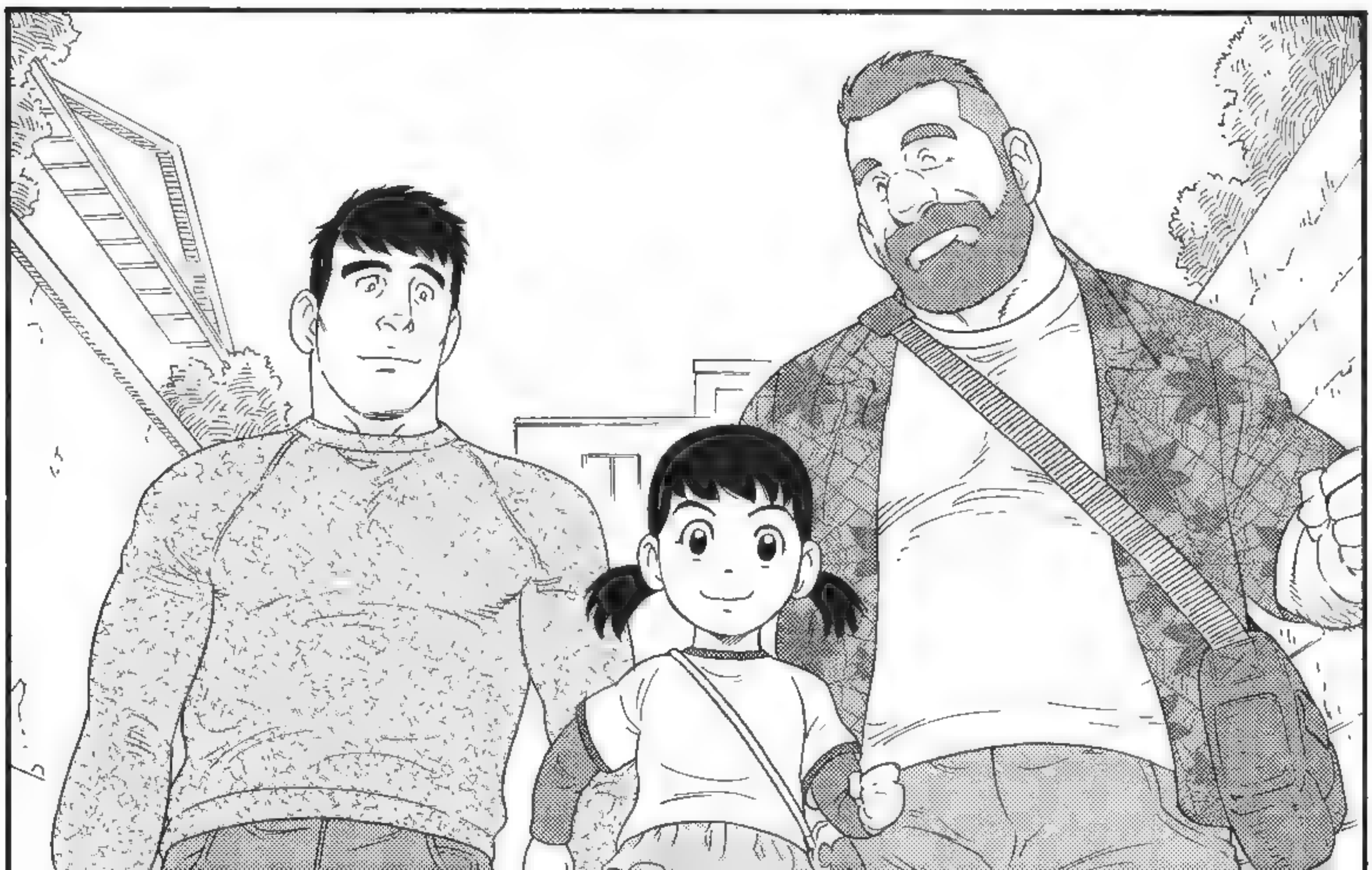
I CAN FINALLY...

I HAD NO IDEA



ABOUT ANY OF IT.





IT USED TO BE ALL RICE PADDIES.

THIS WHOLE AREA IS ALL APARTMENTS.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THEM? EAT THEM?

FROG EGGS?!

FROG?

USED TO FIND FROG EGGS.

MY BROTHER AND I...

ONCE THEY BECAME FROGS WE'D THROW THEM BACK IN THE RICE PADDY!

"AND THEN?" WHY...

THAT'S WEIRD!

WE'D RAISE THEM TO TADPOLES!

OF COURSE NOT!

HMM. AND THEN?

YAICHI, YOU ONCE FELL INTO A RICE PADDY, DIDN'T YOU?

WELL SURE, ONCE OR TWICE.

I MEAN, THAT'S ALL?

WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT THAT?!

YOU'D TAKE THEM OUT OF THE PADDY AND THEN RETURN THEM TO THE PADDY?

WHISPER WHISPER

!

BUT THERE WAS ONE TIME...

WELL, THEN... I'LL TELL YOU EMBARRASSING STORIES ABOUT HIM.

TCH... JEEZ.

MY BROTHER TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?!

MIKE! OVER HERE!

COMING.

NOTHING'S COMING TO MIND.

SHOOT...

HMM...

WHISHH

WHISHH

WHISHH

DAD!
DAD, HURRY UP!

WHISHH

C'MON, DAD!

...

COMING!

CHAPTER FIVE

# SILHOUETTE

THIS WAS OUR *TSUGAKURO.*

DO YOU KNOW THAT WORD? OUR SCHOOL COMMUTE.

WE TOOK THIS PATH EVERY DAY TOGETHER.

ON THAT CORNER WAS A HAUNTED HOUSE. IT'S GONE NOW.

MY BROTHER AND I BELIEVED GHOSTS LIVED HERE.

THEY'RE PRACTICALLY RUINS NOW, BUT AT NIGHT THE LIGHT HERE TURNS ON.

CLICK

WE USED TO PLAY CHICKEN HERE.

THIS IS THE *FUKUTOMEI INARI*.

WANT ME TO TAKE ONE OF YOU, MIKE?

AWW!
I WANT TO BE
IN IT TOO!

YES.
LET'S TAKE A
PICTURE!

ALRIGHT,
LOOK OVER
HERE!

SAY
CHEE—

—EESE.

GET IN...

WHAT?

NEXT!

GET IN WITH US, DAD.

C'MON, DAD! HURRY UP!

OH, UH... THAT'S NOT...

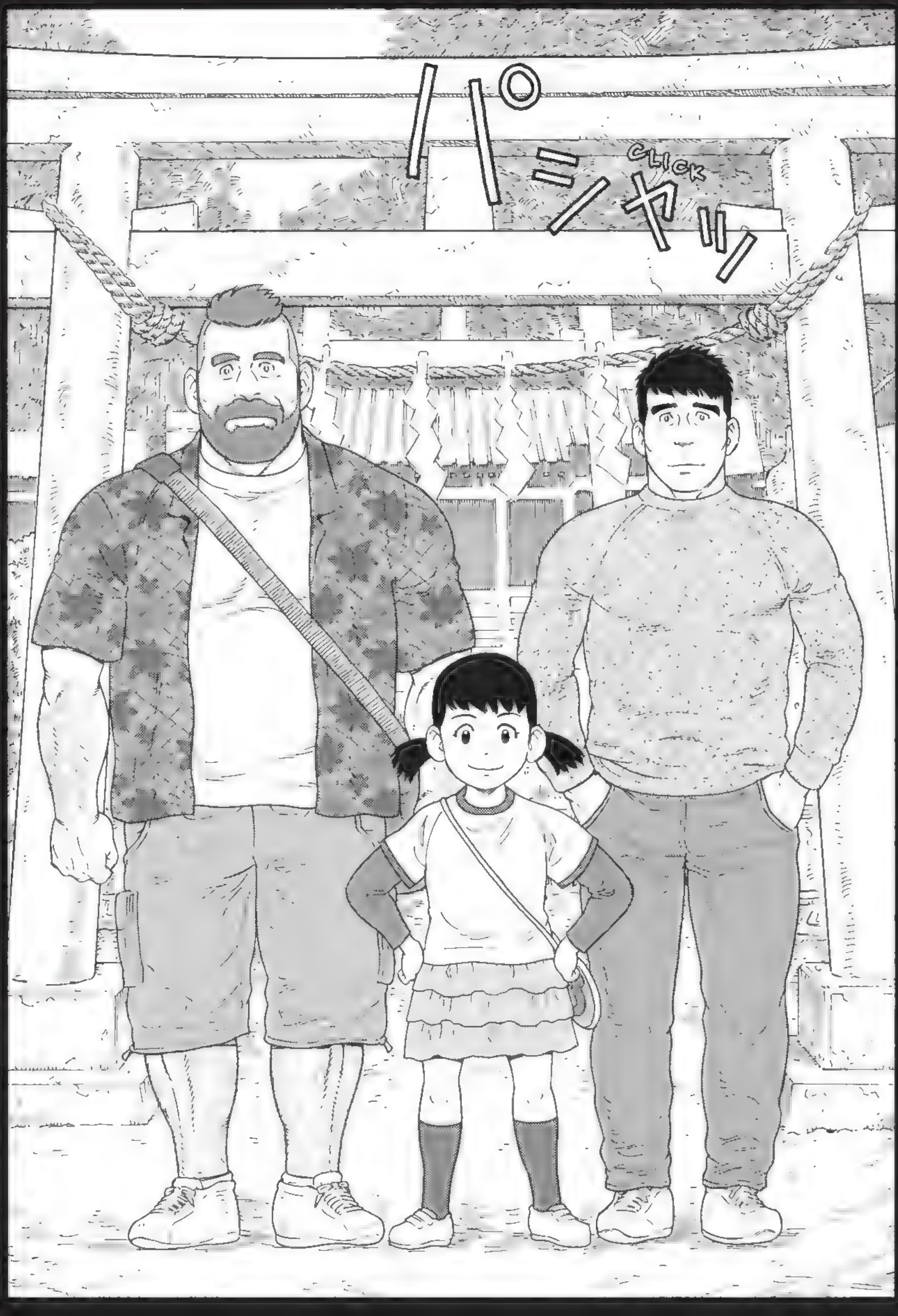
WOULD YOU LIKE US TO TAKE IT?

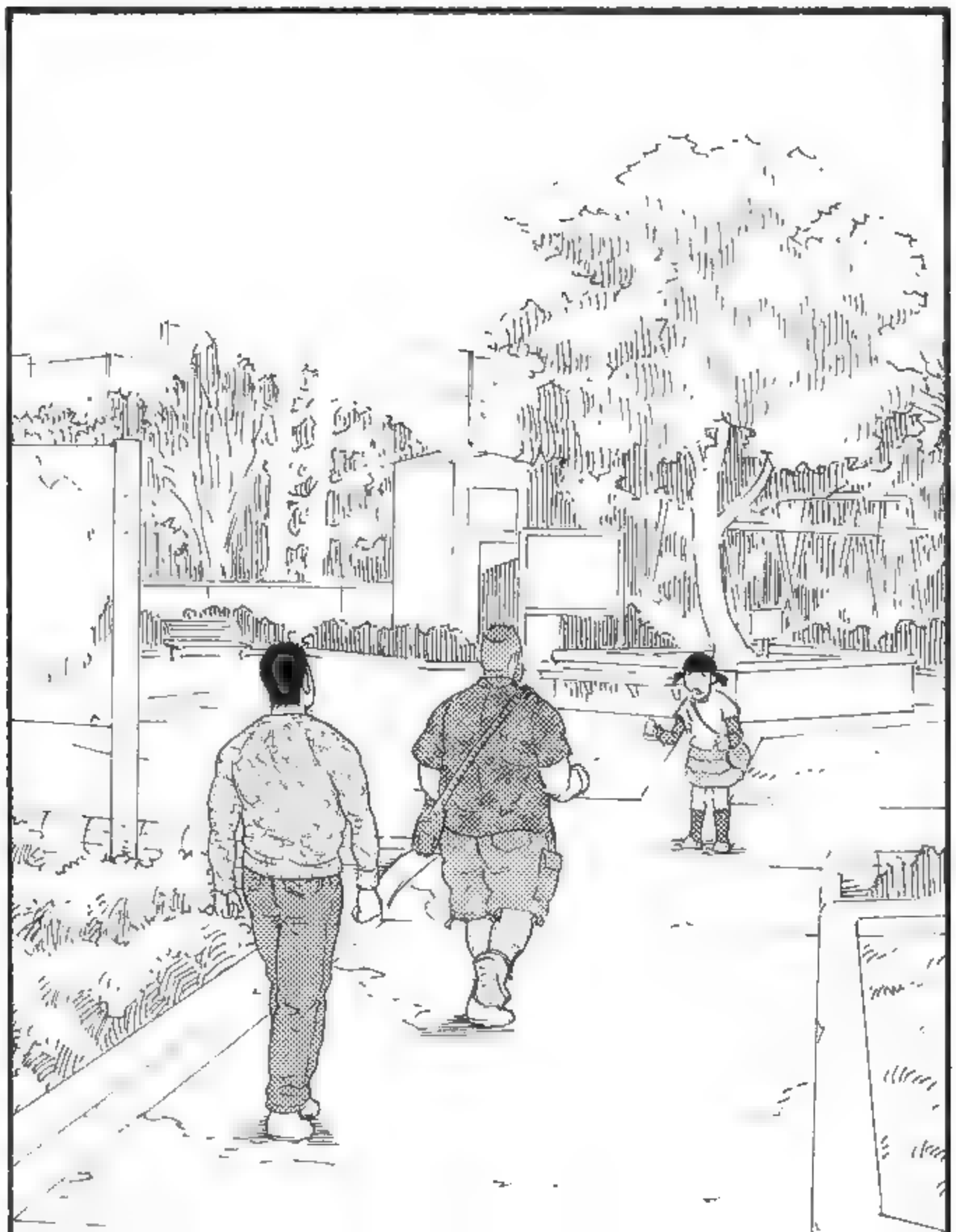
HERE WE GO. ONE, TWO...

I HAVE THE SAME PHONE. I KNOW HOW TO TAKE IT.

THE SHUTTER'S...

OK, THANK YOU. IF YOU DON'T MIND, THEN...


CLICK



OOH, A CAT!

AHH. LET'S STOP FOR A MINUTE.

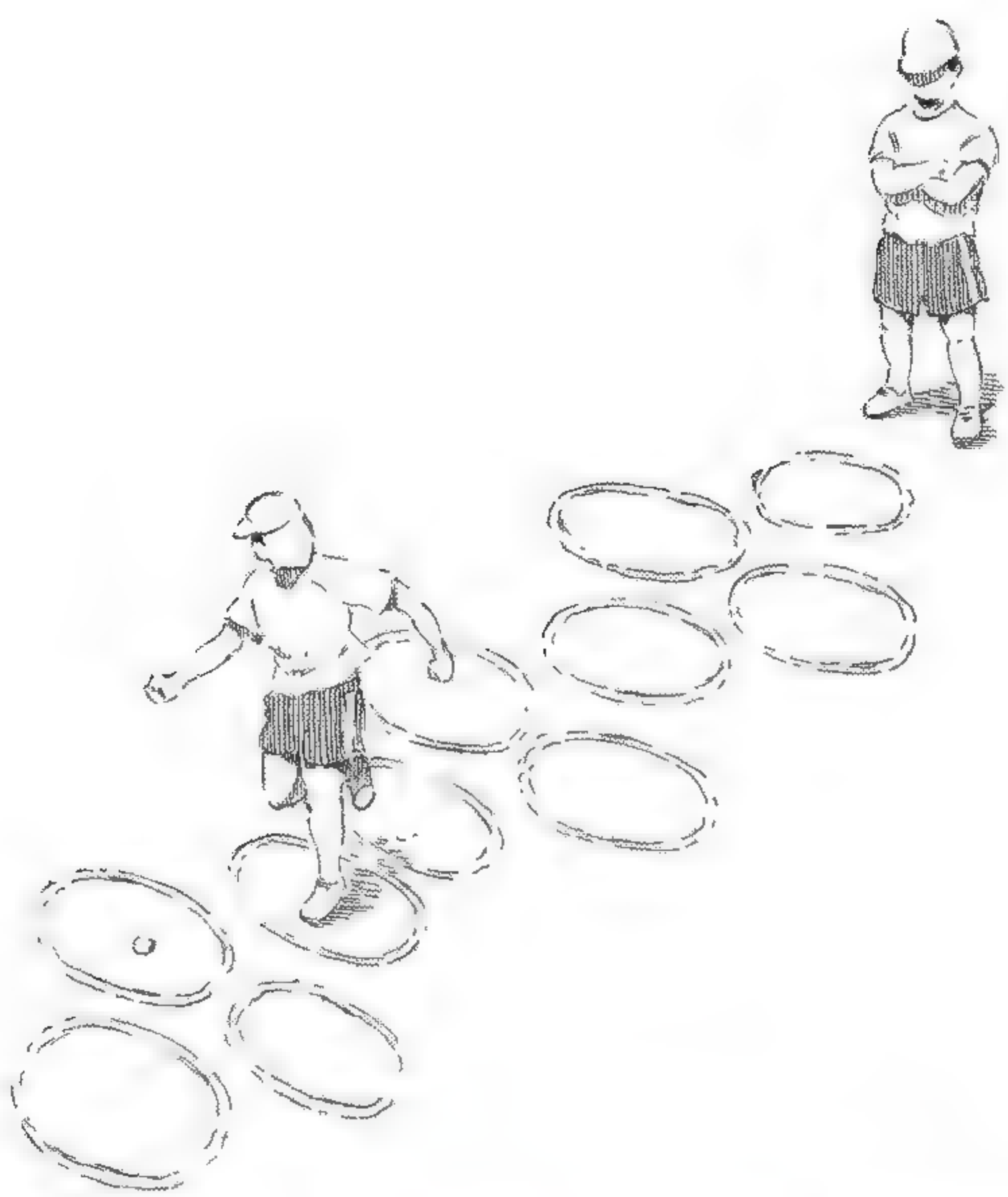
THUD

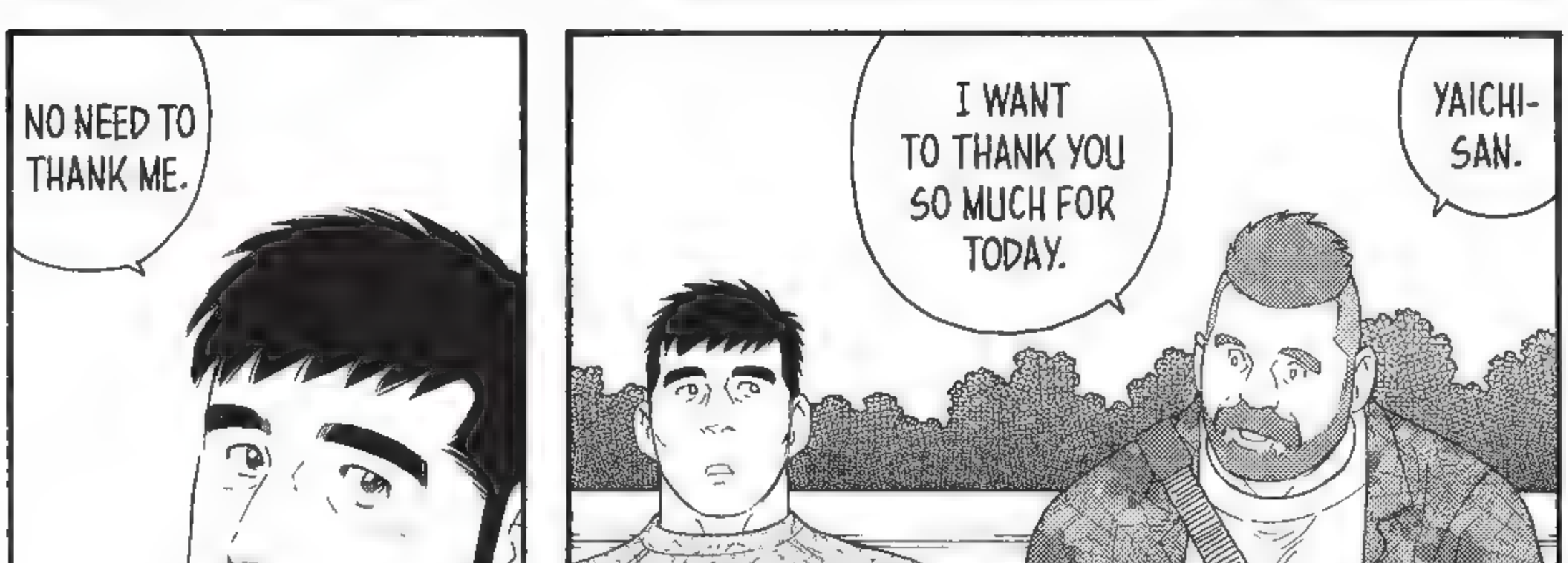
CAREFUL!

WE'D PLAY CATCH, OR KICK STONES, AND PLAY...

THIS PARK...

IS WHERE MY BROTHER AND FRIENDS PLAYED.




NO NEED TO THANK ME.
I WANT TO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY.
YAICHI-SAN.

WHEN WE WERE KIDS

WE'D GO EVERYWHERE TOGETHER.

WALKING AROUND ALL THESE SITES,

I STARTED TO REMEMBER THINGS AND GOT A LITTLE SENTIMENTAL.

ONCE WE BECAME ADULTS,

WE JUST STOPPED.

...

YAICHI-SAN, IS IT POSSIBLE...

BECAUSE RYOJI CAME OUT?

WAS IT...

NO...

I DON'T THINK SO.

I MEAN...

BUT WE WERE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.

MOM AND DAD HAD DIED...

I'D JUST GOTTEN MY FIRST GIRLFRIEND.

THAT WAS... WHEN WAS THAT ANYWAY?

I SAID, "YOU SHOULD FIND A GIRL, TOO!"

THEN HE SAID,

I WAS REALLY INTO HER, AND I TOLD HIM ABOUT IT.

YAICHI,

I'M...

I'M GAY.

SMILING WHEN HE SAID IT.

THAT'S WHEN I SAID,

THAT'S HOW HE SAID IT.

ALL NORMAL.

OH?

IS THAT SO?

I WAS ABLE TO SAY.

THAT'S ALL...

HMM... SURPRISED?

WAS I?

WERE YOU SURPRISED?

...

MORE THAN THAT...

I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT'VE BEEN SURPRISED.

WHEN HE TOLD ME. I GUESS I KIND OF KNEW THE WHOLE TIME.

I DIDN'T KNOW...

HOW TO REACT. WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY.

UNTIL THEN.

THERE WEREN'T ANY PEOPLE LIKE THAT AROUND ME.

STRANGELY,

I BECAME SO AWARE OF IT.

WHEN I REALLY THINK ABOUT IT,

JUST THAT INFORMATION MADE HIM...

IT WASN'T LIKE HE CHANGED WITH THAT INFORMATION.

BUT...

DID RYOJI EVER TELL YOU ABOUT IT?

YES.

BUT...

HE FELT LIKE YOU AVOIDED TALKING ABOUT IT.

HE SAID, "MY BROTHER YAICHI-SAN DIDN'T CONDEMN OR ANYTHING... "JUST ACCEPTED IT, AND DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING."

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT WAS THE CAUSE OF SOME BROTHERLY CONFLICT,

OR ANYTHING.

THAT

MAY VERY WELL BE.

WE WENT TO DIFFERENT COLLEGES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

AND WE NATURALLY BECAME DISTANT.

WE BOTH GREW UP AND CHANGED A LOT.

...YEAH.

ON HIS OWN, TO UP AND LEAVE FOR CANADA.

AFTER ALL, HE WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED...

MIKE!!

I'M COMING, KANA-CHAN!

COME OVER HERE!

MIKE! OVER HERE!

YAICHI-KUN!

*KUN* IS AN ADDRESS OF ENDEARMENT FOR YOUNG MEN.

ARE WE TAKING A WALK WITH KANA TODAY?

YES, WELL...

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.

OH, SAITO-SAN!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

THAT'S MIKE. HE'S...

MY BROTHER'S...

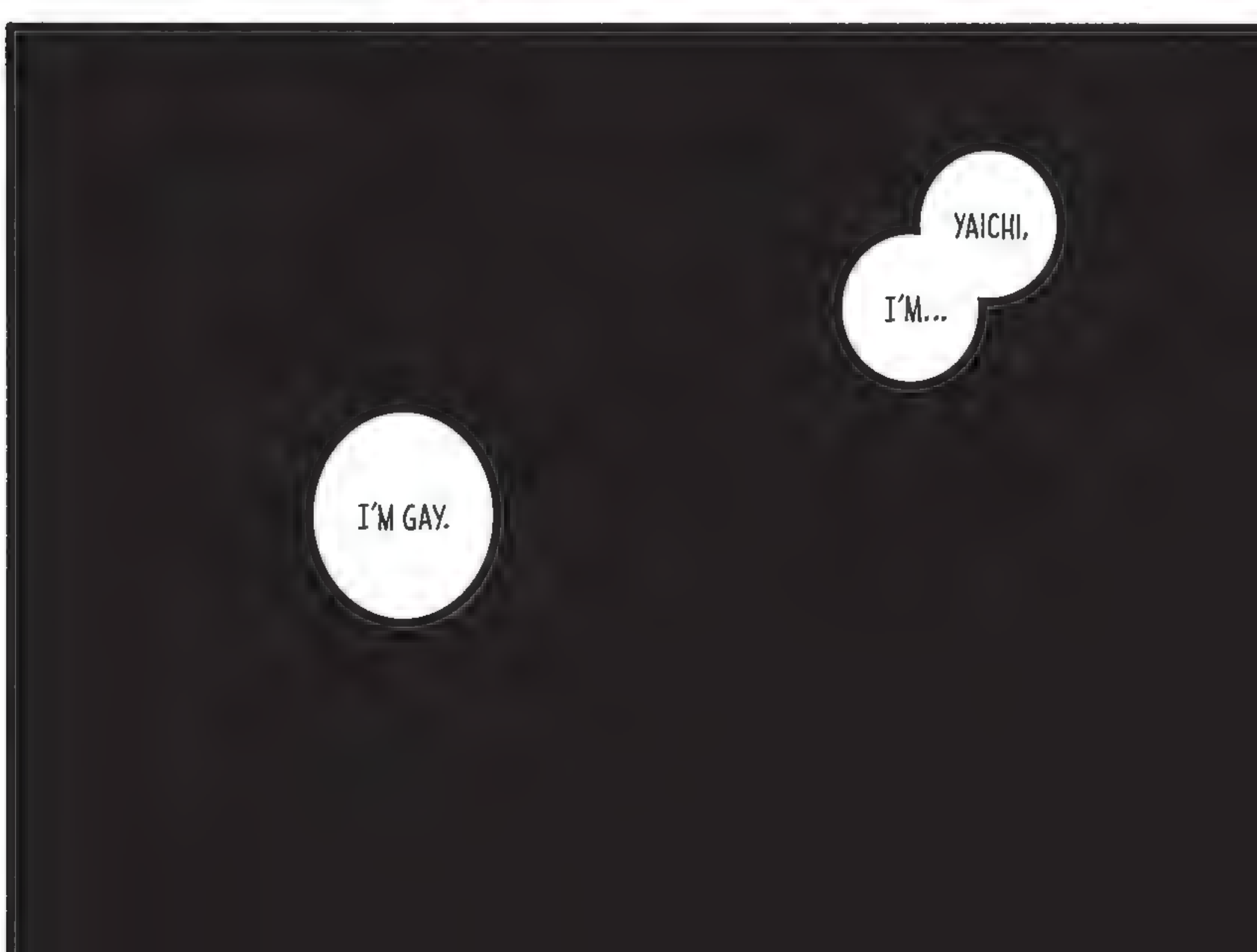
WHO'S HE?

THAT HUGE FOREIGNER.

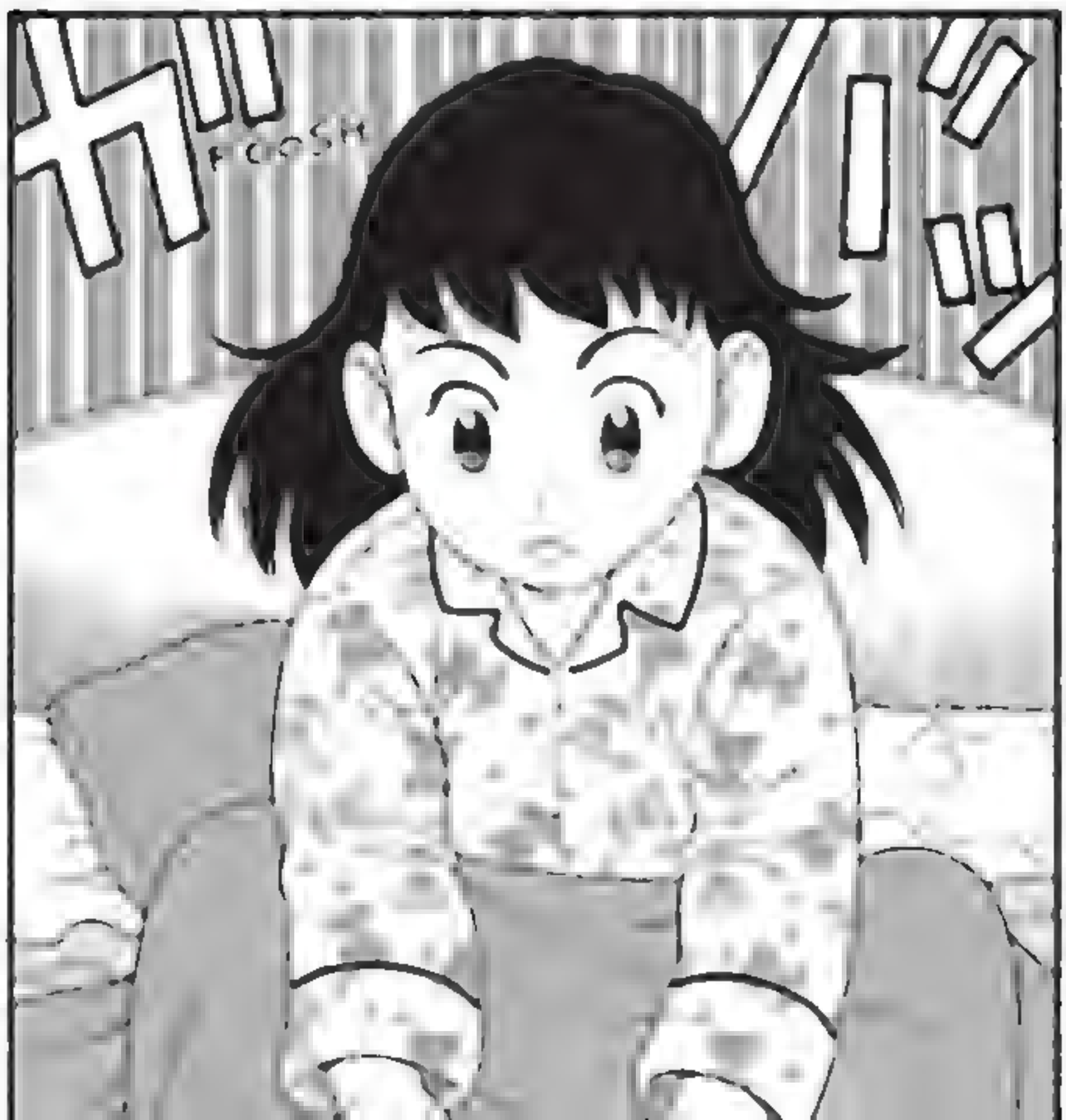
THE ONE WITH KANA.

MY BROTHER'S...

FRIEND.


YAICHI,
I'M...
I'M GAY.

# CHAPTER SIX
# *TEARS*


FOOSH

ぽちっ
SNAP

WHERE'S MIKE?

ピコン

THOUGH YOU DID WALK A LOT YESTERDAY.

WHERE'S MIKE?!

LOOK WHO'S UP! IT'S ALMOST NOON.

WHERE? WHERE'D MIKE GO?

YOU MUST BE STARVING. FEEL LIKE *UDON*?

WHEN'S HE COMING BACK?!

HE GOT UP A WHILE AGO AND HEADED OUT FOR THE DAY.

AWW!

HE SAID

HE'S MEETING A FRIEND. HE MIGHT BE BACK A LITTLE LATE.

ARE THEY JAPANESE? CANADIAN?

OH, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU KNEW PEOPLE HERE.

I'M MEETING A FRIEND TODAY.

YAICHI-SAN...

YOU GO WAY BACK?

I SEE.

BUT HE'S LIVED IN JAPAN FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.

CALIFORNIA.

NO, AMERICAN.

I SEE...

WE BECAME FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK.

THE INTERNET!

WE'RE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.

...HUH?

I'LL GIVE YOU THE SPARE KEY, THEN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I AM HAVING A MEAL WITH HIM AND THEN WE'LL GO DRINKING.

I WILL PROBABLY COME HOME LATE.

HAVE FUN!

THANKS. SEE YOU LATER!

ブー
B-U-

ナニ？
N-A-N-I-D

MIKE HAS HIS OWN PLANS TOO, YOU KNOW.

C'MON. YOUR NOODLES WILL GET COLD.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT! STOP MAKING THAT FACE.

I MEAN, SHOW... WHAT?

SHOW... TO WHO?

I WAS GONNA SHOW HIM OFF TODAY.

IT'S NOT FAIR.

SLURP

MIKE ISN'T A THING. HE'S A PERSON.

YOU DON'T "SHOW" A PERSON. YOU "INTRODUCE" THEM!

BUT YOU SEE, KANA...

OH, I SEE. WELL, THAT IS TOO BAD.

TO YUKI AND TOMO.

KANA'S CANADIAN UNCLE.

...

BUT I WAS GONNA *INTRODUCE* HIM.

YOU CAN INTRODUCE HIM ANOTHER TIME!

...

DON'T BE SO BUMMED...

I WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIM.

YEAH, I'M SORRY...

WHAT?! HE'S NOT COMING?

UM, IT'S BROWN.

GOOD-LOOKING? BLOND HAIR?

SO WHAT'S HE LIKE?

HIS BODY HAIR IS BROWN AND FUZZY, TOO!

MY MOM SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW!

BUT IT'S TRUE!

I TOLD HER BOYS CAN MARRY EACH OTHER IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. I ASKED IF IT WAS TRUE.

I ASKED MY MOM ABOUT IT.

SO, DOES THAT MEAN GIRLS CAN MARRY EACH OTHER, TOO?

MY DAD'S BROTHER WENT TO CANADA AND MARRIED MIKE!

I DIDN'T ASK...

...

WAIT, BUT,

WHY DID THEY GET MARRIED?

...

I'LL ASK NEXT TIME!

WHO YOU CALLING AN IDIOT, IDIOT?!

UGLY YUKI!

YOU IDIOT.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY MADE LOVE.

MARRIAGE, YOU SEE...

IS SOMETHING FOR PEOPLE WHO MAKE LOVE TO EACH OTHER.

HUH?

RIGHT, KANA?

SO THEY MADE LOVE AND THEN GOT MARRIED!

UH...

YEAH.

HMM?

ZI!!... SLURP

...

UM, DAD?

WHAT'S WITH YOU...

ALL OF A SUDDEN?

ZII... SNORT

DID MIKE AND RYOJI-SAN...

MAKE LOVE?

...

NO.

THOUGHT SO.

TRUTH IS, DADDY DOESN'T REALLY KNOW EITHER.

BUT KANA...

WELL, DAD MIGHT NOT KNOW,

BUT THAT MAY BE THE CASE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT "MAKING LOVE" MEANS?

IT'S OK TO NOT KNOW.

BUT ONE DAY, WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT...

WHAT?!

...HMM.

PROBABLY GET TO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO FALL IN LOVE.

YOU WILL

ガラ
ガラッ
ズズズ

IS THAT YOU, MIKE?

MNN MNN

BUZZ BUZZ

YOU ARE KAPUT!

OH NO.

JEEZ YOU'RE HEAVY.

NO... WAVER

KRR

LET'S GET YOU ON YOUR *FUTON.*

C'MON, STAND UP.

LOOK, I'LL SET UP YOUR *FUTON* FOR YOU.

RYOJI!

W...

WAIT

THUD

...

H-HEY!

I'M YAICHI!

IT'S NOT RYOJI!

MIKE! YOU IDIOT!

RYOJI!

RYOJI!

RYOJI...

RYOJI...

C'MON, MIKE!

LET GO!

I'M GONNA HIT YOU!

<RYOJI! WHY...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DIE?>*

<YOU PROMISED ME...>

* IN ENGLISH

<AFTER ALL THAT,
AND I FINALLY MADE IT
TO JAPAN.>

<WHY AREN'T YOU
HERE WITH ME?!>

I'LL STAY HERE TILL YOU'RE OK.

LOSING SOMEONE YOU LOVE...

IT'S HARD. I KNOW.

...

MIKE?

...ZZZ

YOU'RE ALREADY ASLEEP.

LOOK AT THAT.

WHEN OUR PARENTS DIED...

I WASN'T ABLE TO CRY.

NOT ONE BIT.

BUT RYOJI...

HE COULDN'T STOP CRYING.

I DON'T KNOW IF I WAS JUST IN SHOCK.

BUT I DIDN'T. NOT AT THE FUNERAL, NOT AT THE CREMATION.

BUT

I WAS JEALOUS.

AT THE TIME.

I THOUGHT HE WAS SUCH A WUSS.

IT'S...

HEARING OF HIS DEATH IN CANADA...

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I HADN'T SHED A TEAR.

UNTIL TONIGHT—

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## *MOM*

MY
HEA—D.

...
HUNGOVER?
GOOD MORNING.
YES. HANGOBA.
NO, I'M OK FOR NOW.
BUT WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE BREAKFAST?
IT'S ALMOST LUNCH-TIME...
WATER WOULD BE GREAT!
HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?
WATER?
I'M SURE.

SHE WENT TO SCHOOL HOURS AGO!

WHERE'S KANA-CHAN?

YAICHI-SAN...

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT. I WAS REALLY DRUNK.

UM...

OH...

WHEN I GOT HOME LAST NIGHT.

I DON'T REMEMBER...

OH...

YOU WERE FINE.

IT WAS FUN AND I DRANK TOO MUCH.

YES! MY FRIEND TOOK ME TO AN *IZAKAYA*.

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

*IZAKAYA*: JAPANESE PUB OR TAVERN

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY TODAY.

HA HA HA. THEN I GUESS...

*HANGOBA*.

AND NOW...

BUT FIRST...

I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER.

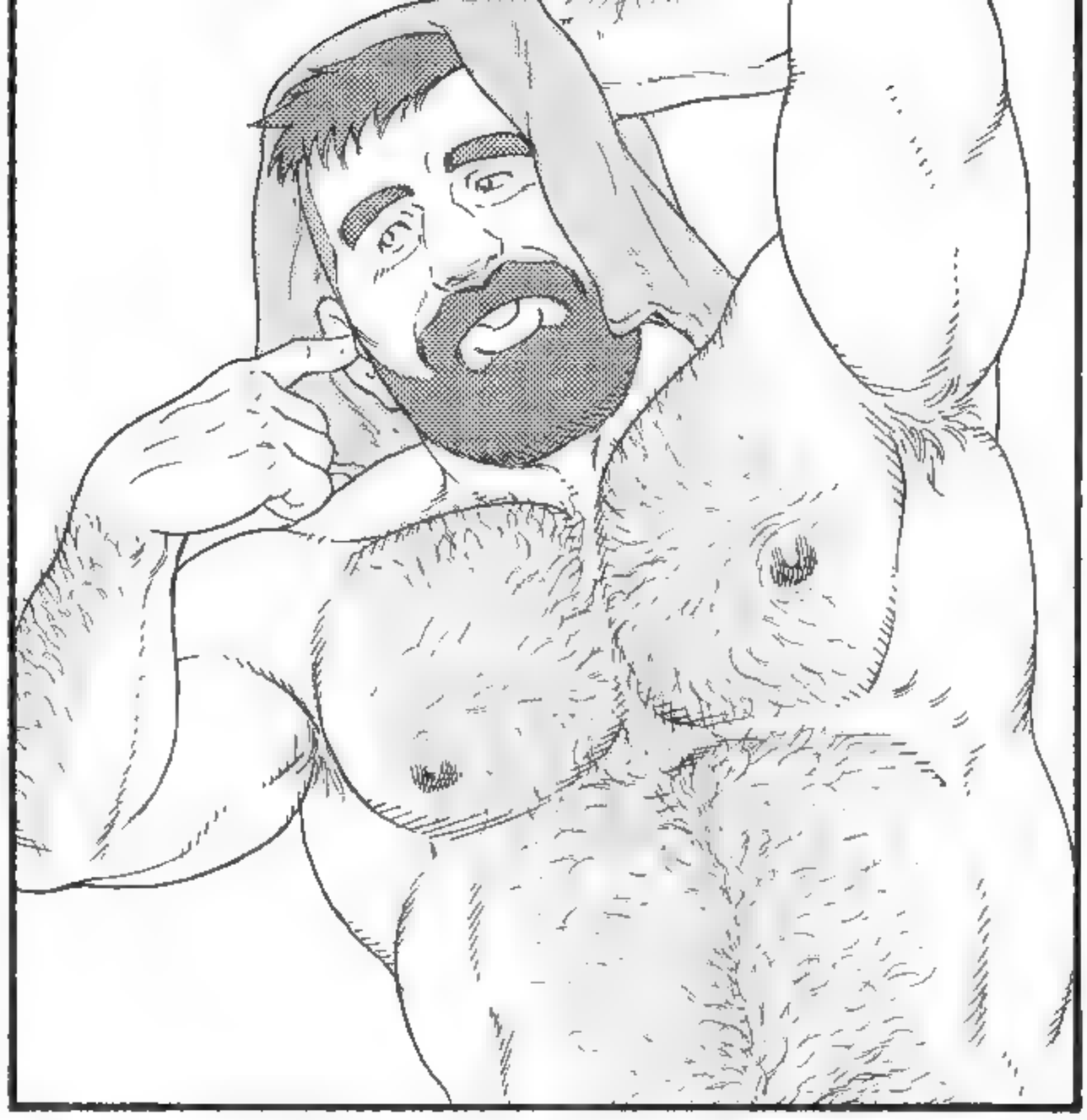
IT'LL GET LOUD ONCE KANA'S BACK.

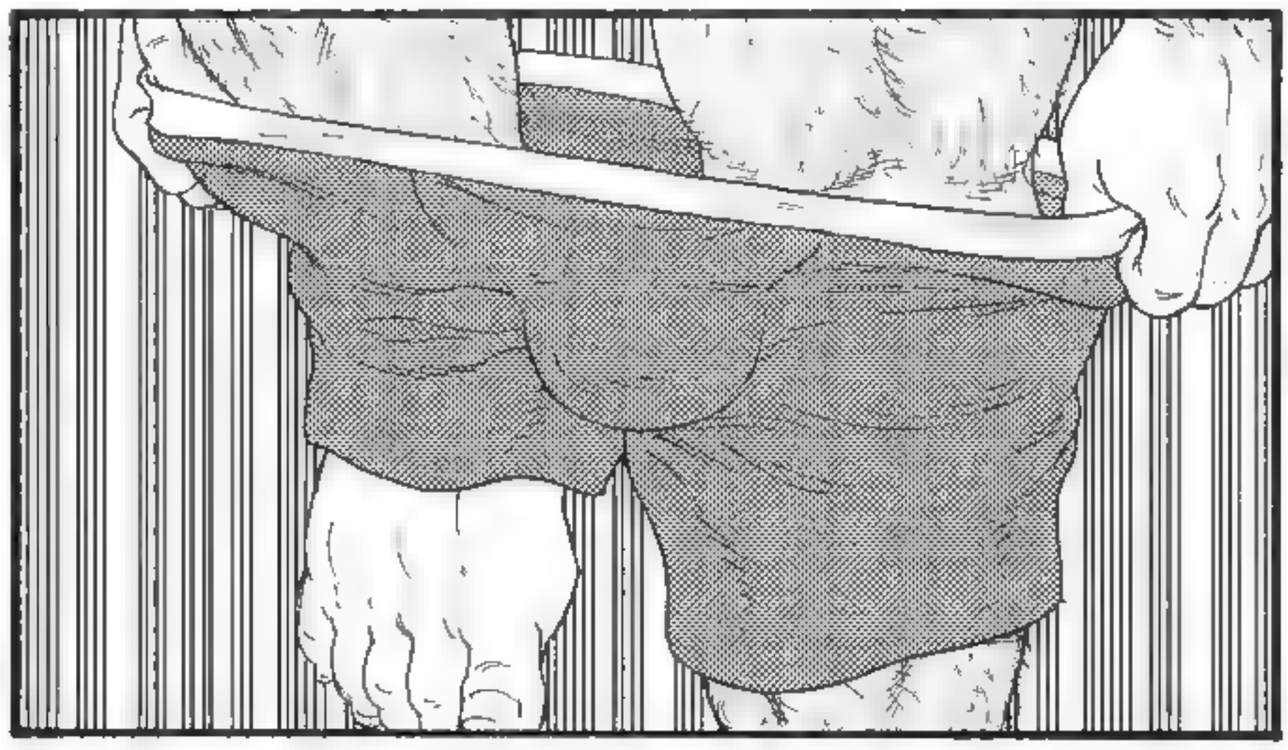
THAT'S GOOD.

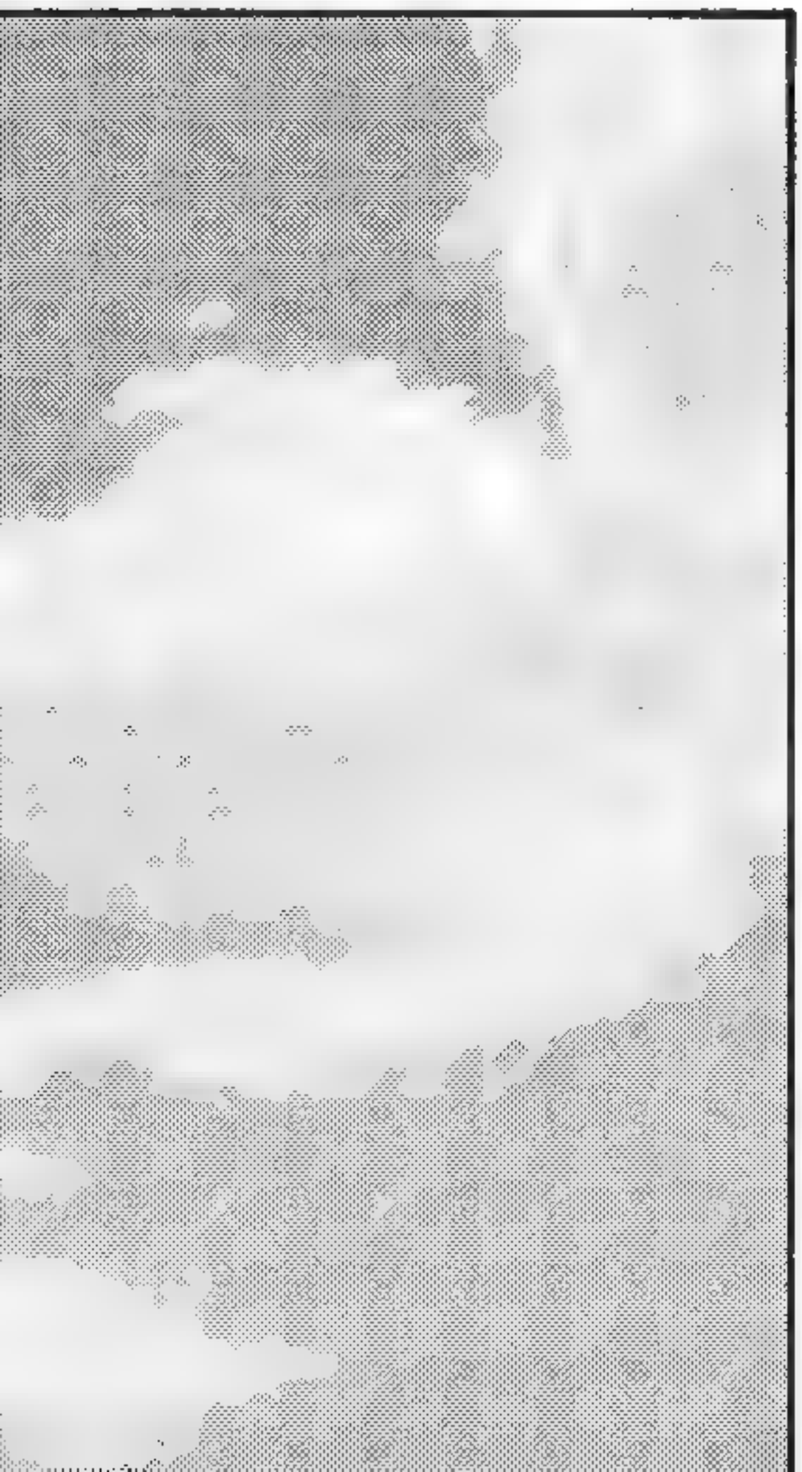
YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP NOW BEFORE SHE GETS BACK.

AFTER I FINISH THIS I'LL SLEEP A LITTLE MORE.

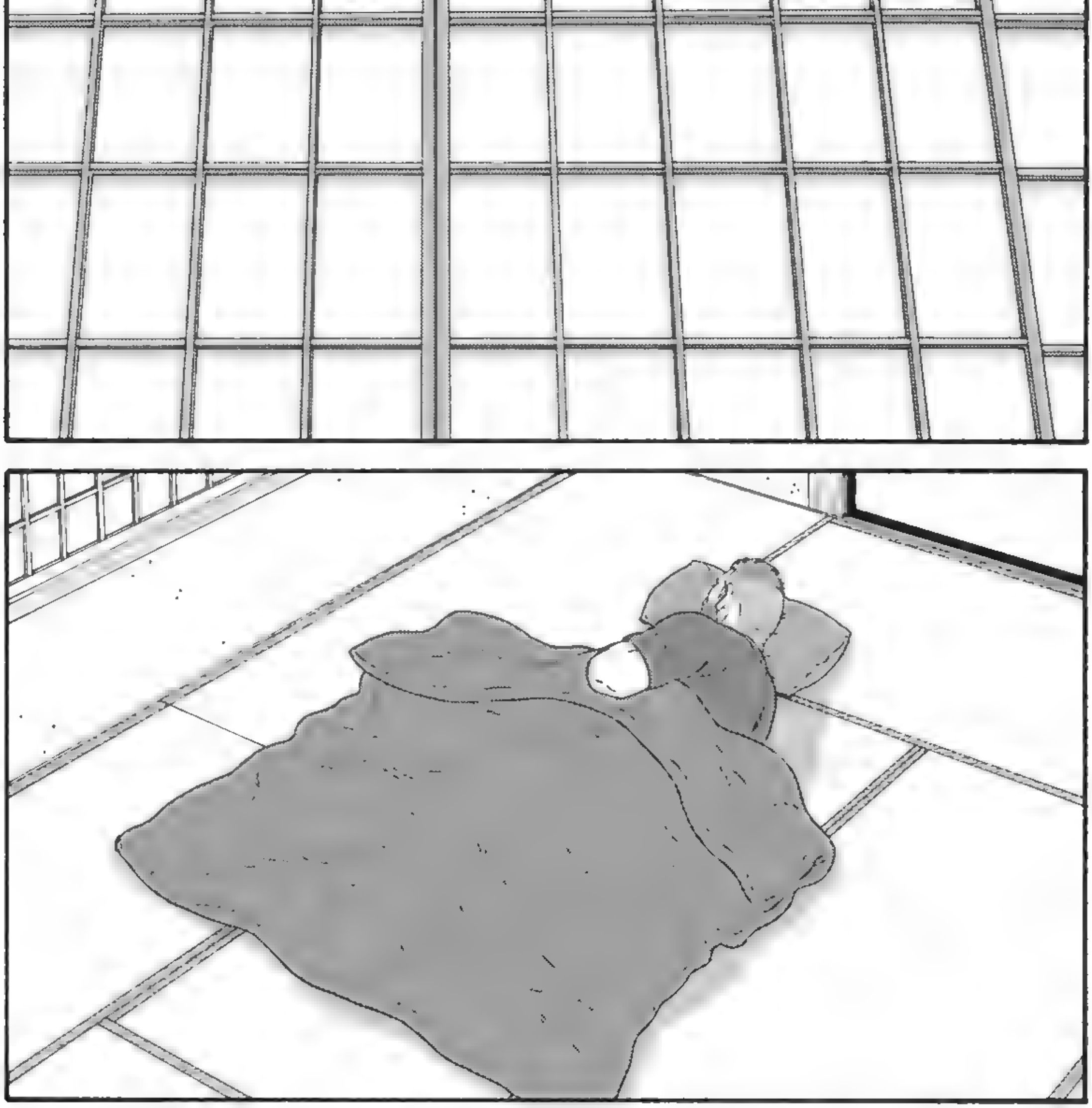
YEAH, I WILL.

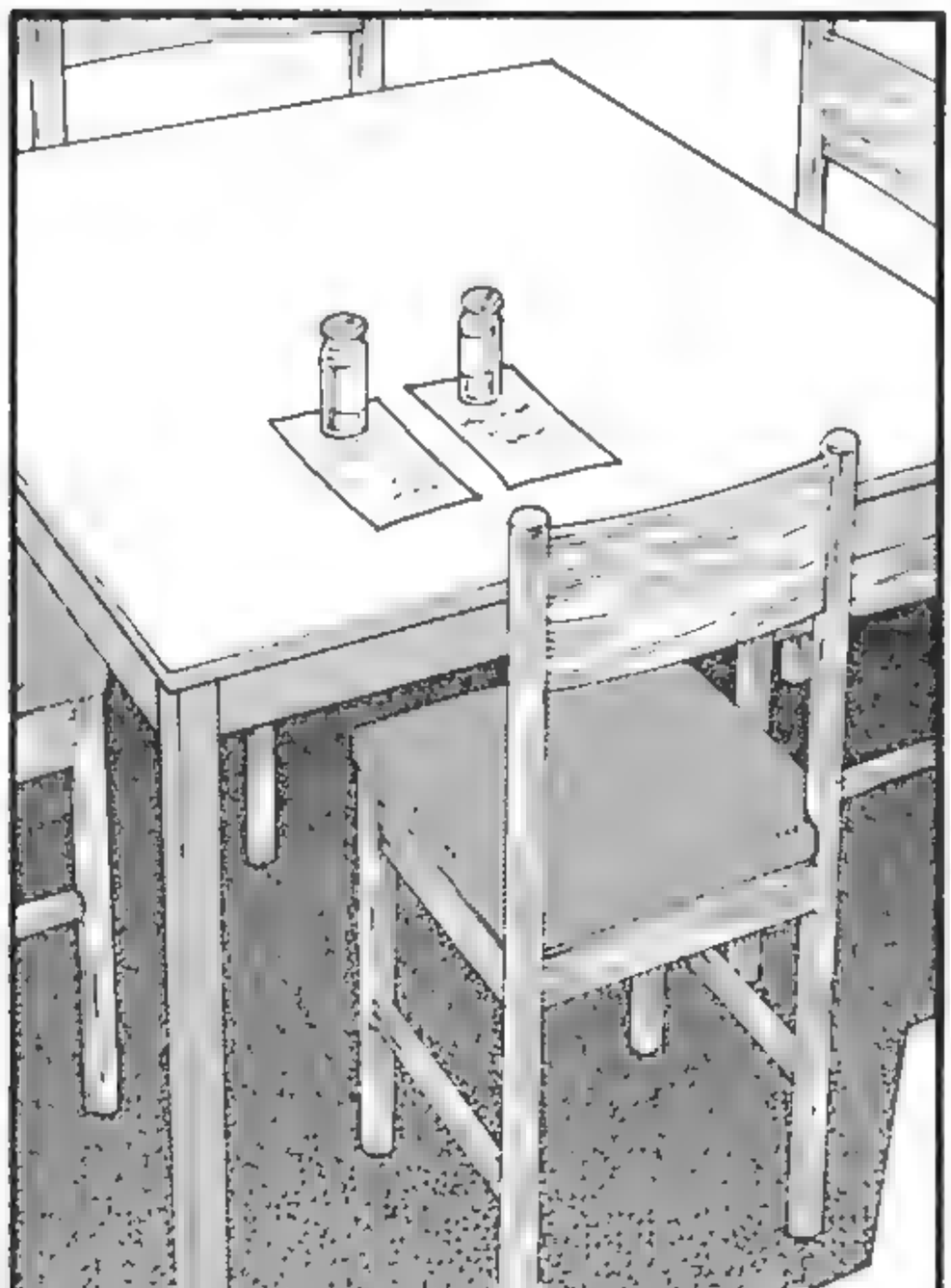


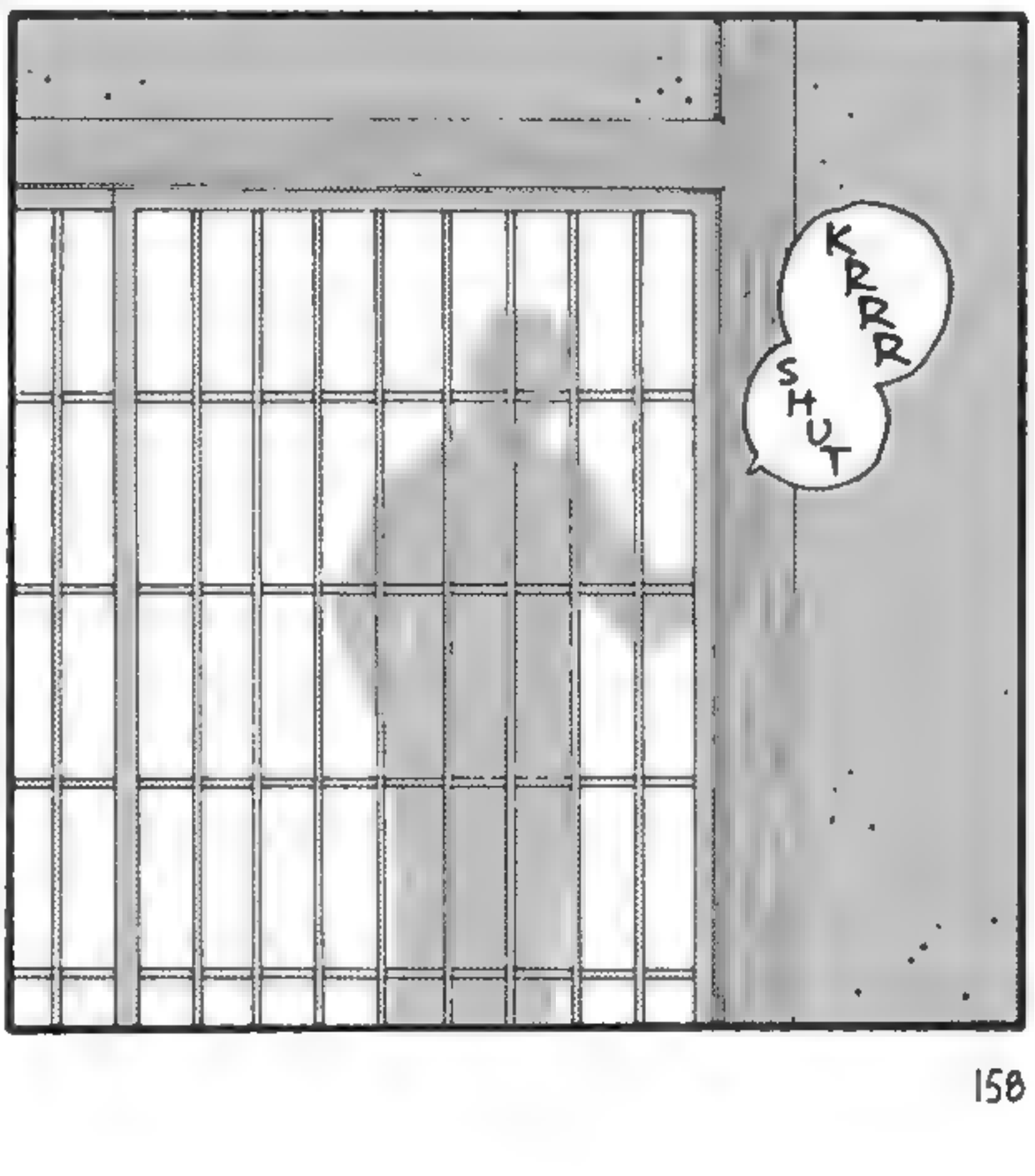




GET SOME REST.
SORRY!






KRRR
SHUT

HMPH

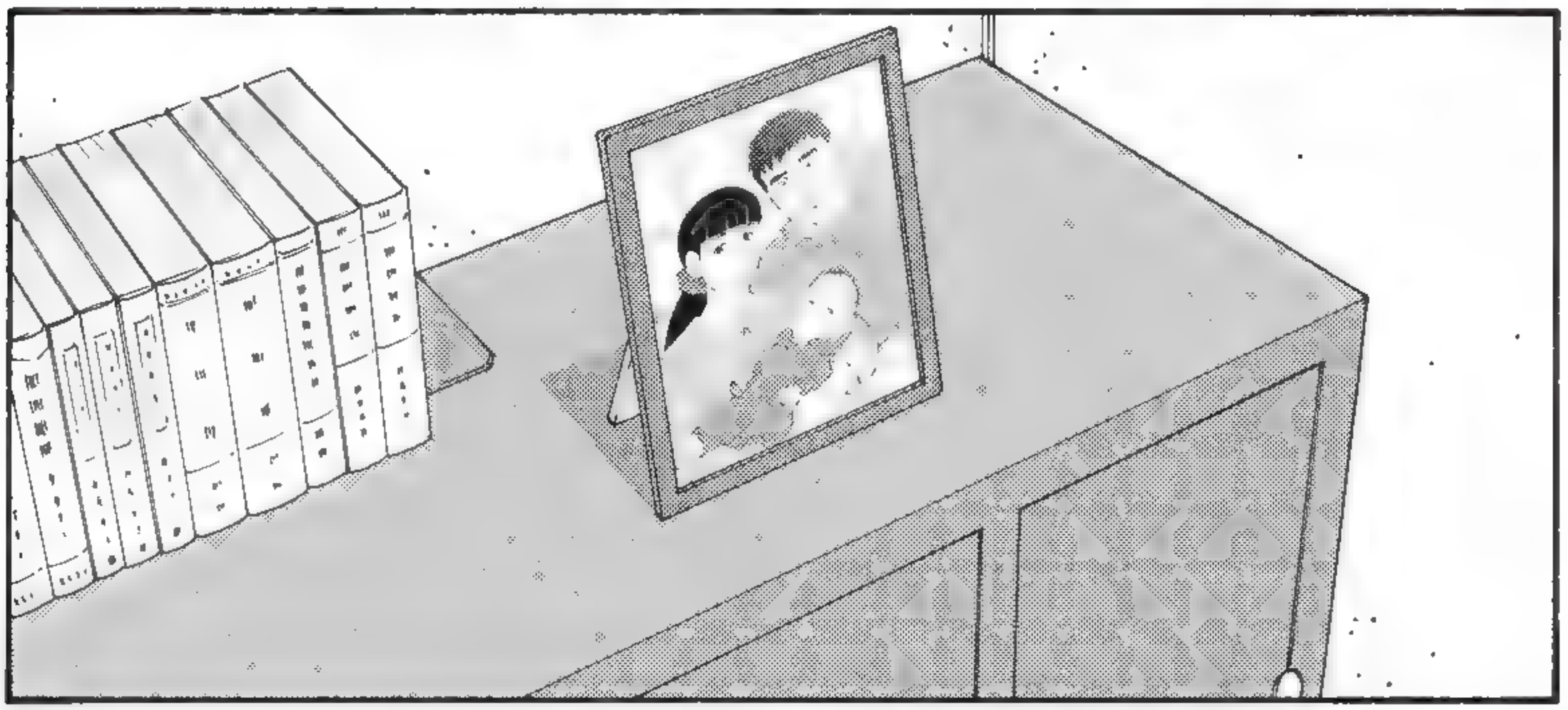
...

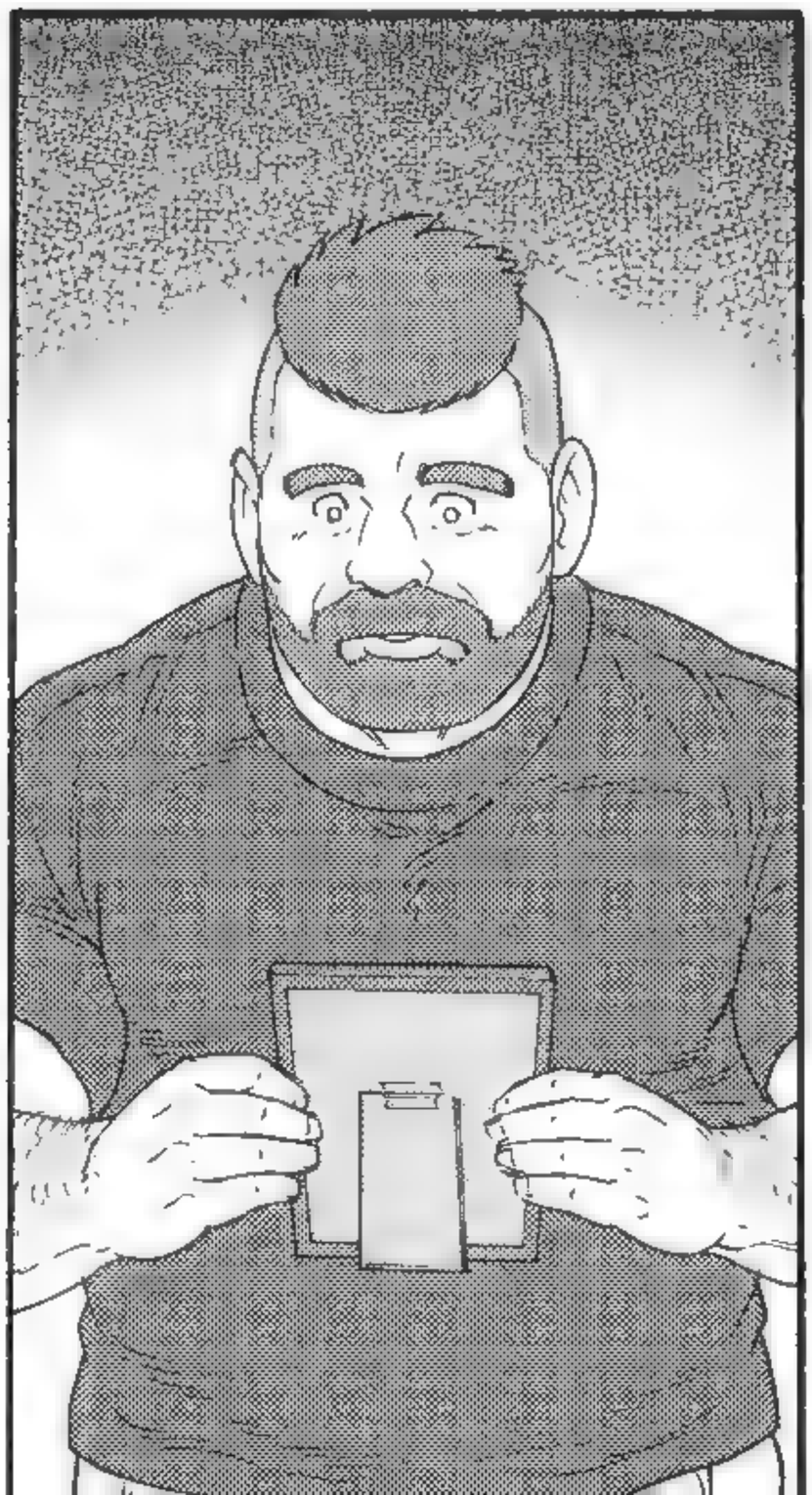
YA-AAN

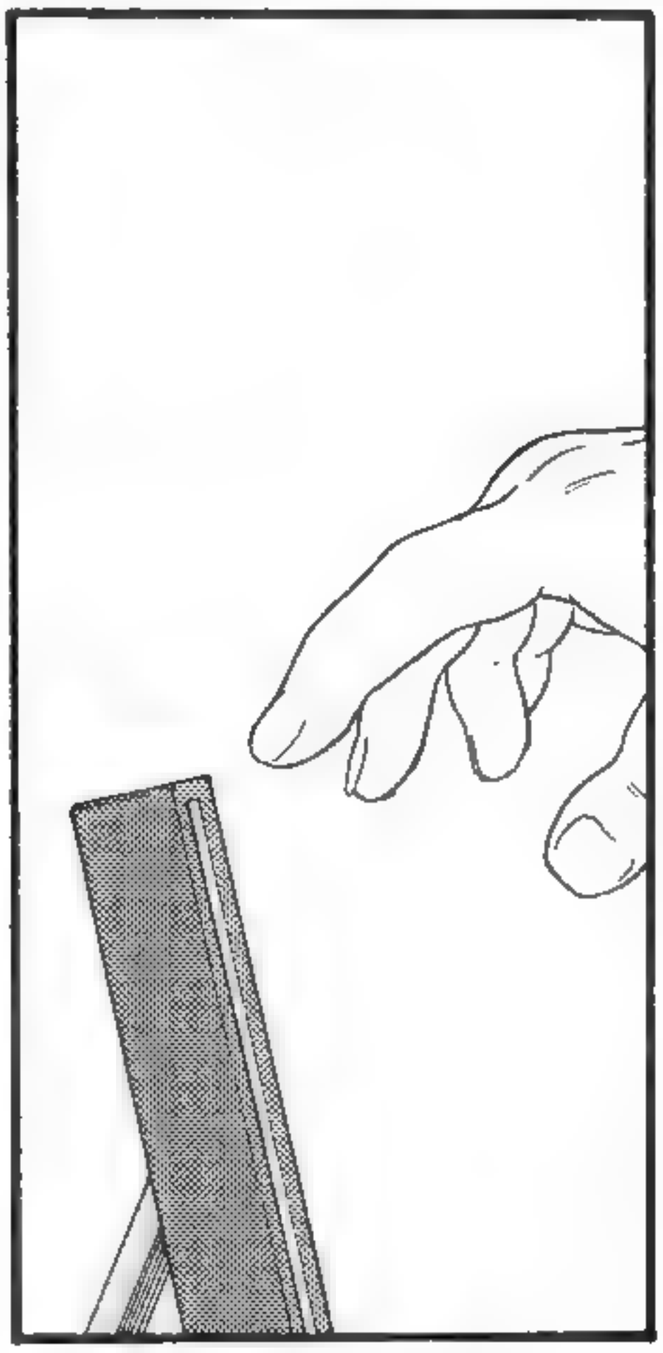
YAICHI-SAN?

YAICHI-SAN?

YAI...

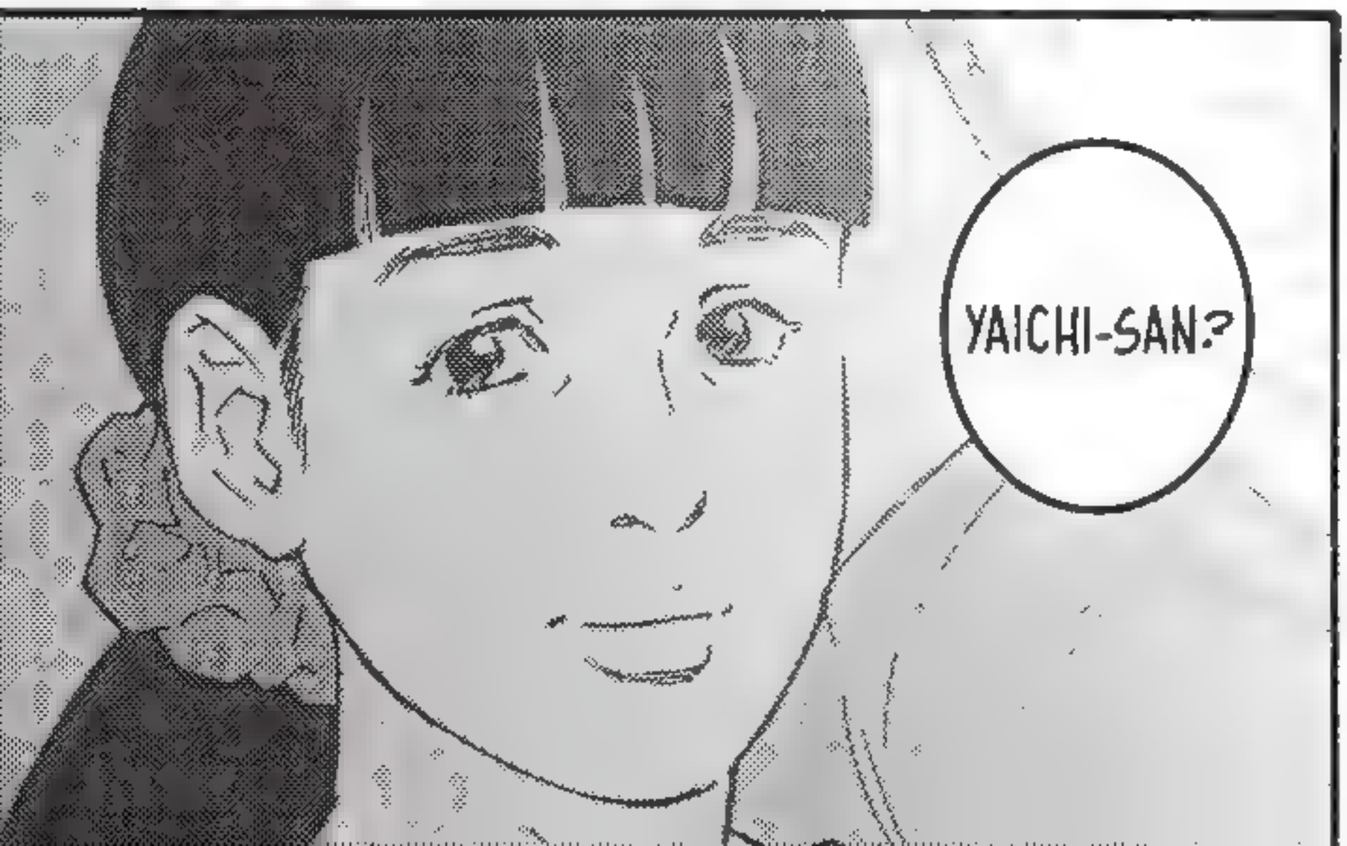






YAICHI-SAN?
ARE YOU HERE?

THUNK


YAICHI-SAN?

"I WENT OUT.

TO MIKE

DEKAKE

REIZOUKO

ANDWICH

ASUKAR

SUITARA

"IN THE FRIDGE...

HE LEFT A NOTE!

"IF YOU'RE HUNGRY,

"PLEASE EAT IT."

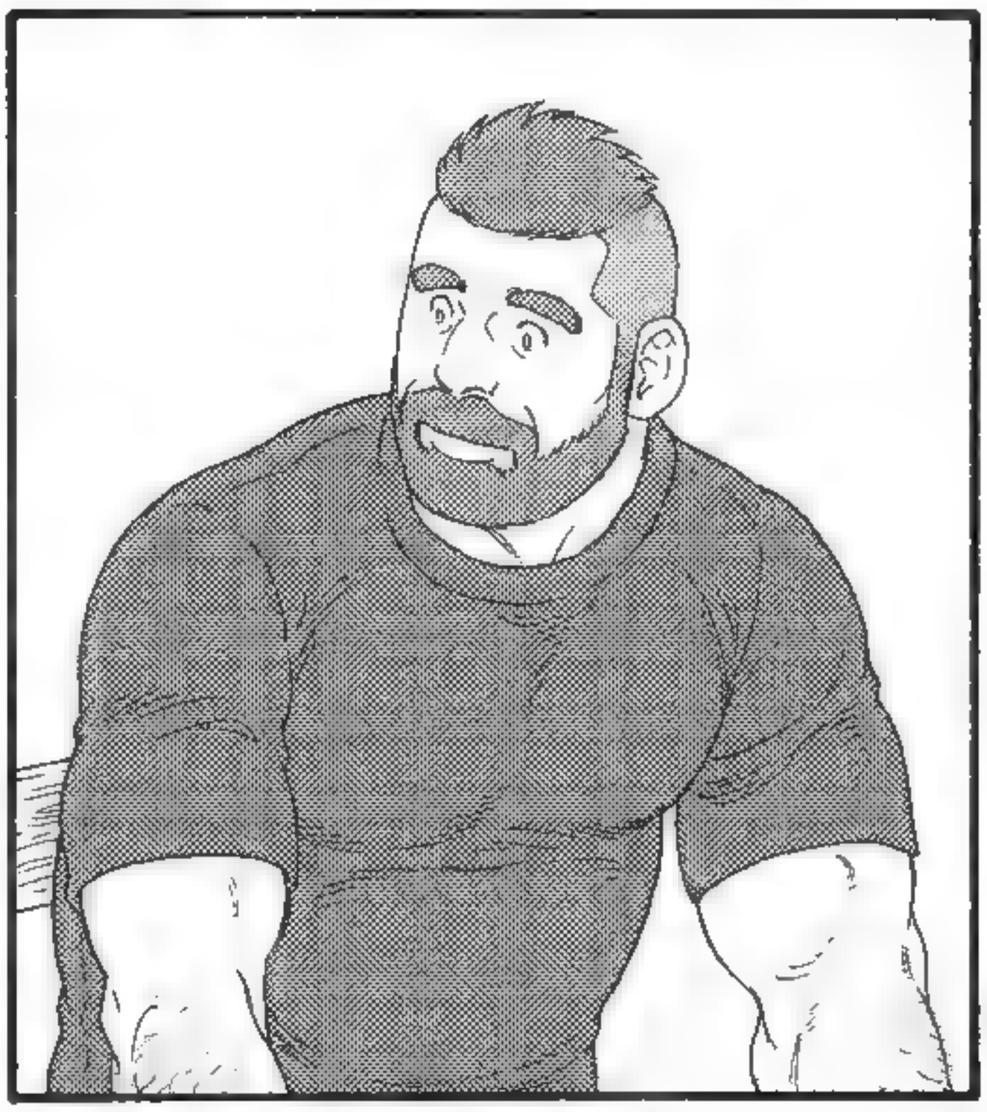
"THERE'S A

"SANDWICH FOR YOU.

YAICHI IS SO NICE.

ガラッ
KRRRR
I'M HOME!

WELCOME BACK, KANA!
HI MIKE!



HE LEFT A NOTE.

HE'S OUT.

...

WHERE'S DAD?

PURIN?

HE SAID TO SHARE IT WITH YOU!

THERE'S *PURIN* IN THE FRIDGE.

PUDDING!

OH...

YOU POKE IT LIKE THIS.

PSSS

IN CANADA, DO WOMEN MARRY EACH OTHER, TOO?

YES?

HEY MIKE?

WANT TO SEE A PICTURE?

YES!

REALLY?!

THEY SURE DO!

I HAVE FRIENDS WHO'VE DONE IT.

WHOA...

SO THEY'RE BOTH WIVES?

YES.

THIS IS ELLEN AND JANE.

THEY'RE MARRIED.

HUH?

THAT'S THEIR SON, ADAM.

...

WHO'S THIS?

YES.

WITH TWO MOMS?!

THEY HAVE KIDS?

TWO MOMS...

HMM.

KANA?

ARE YOU SAD WITHOUT A MOM?

...

HMM...

HUH?

BUT SOMETIMES...

I MEAN, NOT REALLY.

NO WAY!

DON'T TELL DAD I SAID THAT THOUGH!

WAIT!

SOMETIMES I DO WANT HER TO BE HERE.

AND THEN I DO GET SAD...

#11 SOMEDAY...

WHAT IS THIS?

...

IT'S HOW YOU GREET IMPORTANT PEOPLE YOU LIKE.

A HUG!

DOES THAT MEAN YOU LIKE ME?

IN CANADA?

KANA LOVES YOU, TOO, MIKE! HUG!

YES! I LOVE MY LITTLE KANA!

OH MY GOSH!! WOW!

I'M HOME!

IS KANA BACK?

ガラッ!!
CREAK

SOUNDS LIKE DAD'S HOME!

WAIT.

DAD! I'M...

OUR SECRET.

YES, KANA-CHAN!

YOU CAN'T TELL DAD WHAT I TOLD YOU JUST NOW. PROMISE!

REMEMBER, MIKE!

...

WHA?!

SHOCK

DAD! I'M HERE!

?

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, KANA!

YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG!

MAMA!

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU

TO MY EX-WIFE.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M KANA'S MOM, NATSUKI.

GASP
ぱちくり

H-HI...

NICE TO MEET YOU.

CHAPTER EIGHT

# DINING ROOM

HE'S YOUR CANADIAN UNCLE, ISN'T HE?

I KNOW, DEAR.

THIS IS MIKE.

MOMMY, THIS IS...

DAD!

I HEARD FROM DADDY!

AWW! HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

WHY... I MEAN...

WHY'D YOU TELL HER?!

I WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIM TO HER!

YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD?

HAHAHA AWW!

I'M SO SORRY, KANA.

I MISUNDER-STOOD.

THAT'S AWFUL, MIKE!

MOM'S NOT DEAD!

I'M SORRY.

TALK ABOUT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

YOU STILL HAVE THAT PICTURE OF US IN YOUR ROOM, DON'T YOU?

BUT HE'S RIGHT.

HUH?

AND MIKE SAW IT.

YEAH.

WELL...

THE PICTURE OF THE THREE OF US WHEN KANA WAS JUST BORN.

...HUH?

PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY DISPLAY PICTURES OF THEIR EX-WIVES.

JUST AS I THOUGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YES.

NO, I'M GLAD YOU DO.

SO I SHOULDN'T HAVE A PICTURE OF YOU?

...

STOP BULLYING MOM!

DAD!

WHAT THE HELL! WHY ARE YOU BEING SO HARSH?

WHA?!

BUT IT'S A LITTLE... STALKER-ISH.

MOM AND DAD AREN'T FIGHTING.

IT'S OK, KANA.

YOU JUST RAISED YOUR VOICE TO HER.

I'M NOT BULLYING HER!

REALLY?

YES, REALLY!

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A BATH WITH ME LATER?

YES, I AM!

ARE YOU STAYING OVER, MOM?

YEAH!!

SHE WON'T BATHE WITH HER OWN DAD!

SINCE LATE LAST YEAR...

WHAT'S WRONG, YAICHI?

WHAT?! YOU'LL GO WITH MOM BUT NOT WITH DAD?

DAD IS NOT OK!

MOM IS OK.

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.

OH, THE PAINS OF FATHERHOOD.

EEEEE

SEE? IT HURTS!

IT'S FINE. YOU SHOULD HANG OUT WITH KANA.

YOU WANT HELP?

IN THAT CASE, GUESS I'LL JUST MAKE DINNER.

OK. THANKS!

I CAN HELP!

JUST LEAVE ME OUT OF EVERYTHING. THAT'S FINE.

OH SURE.

NO! MIKE, YOU CAN'T GO!

YEAH, I'M SORRY.

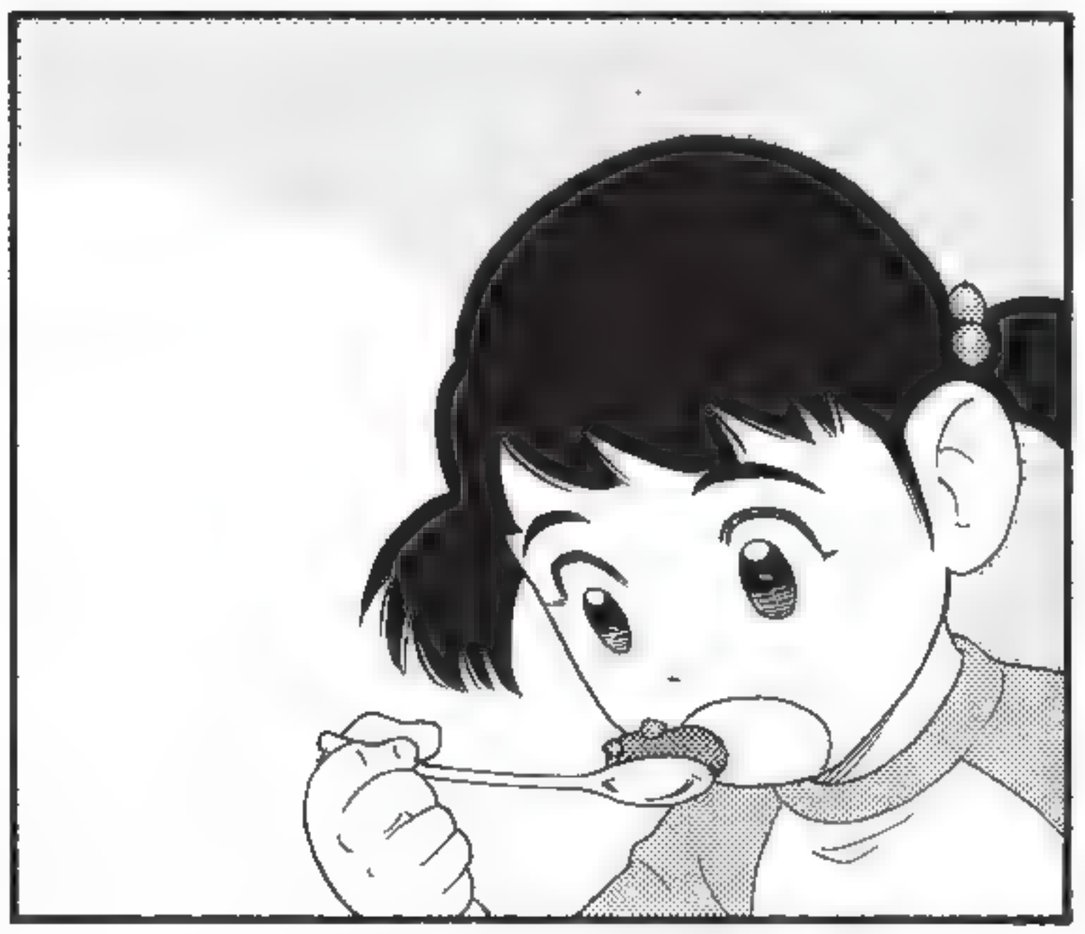
SORRY, MIKE. LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY WITH HER, TOO.

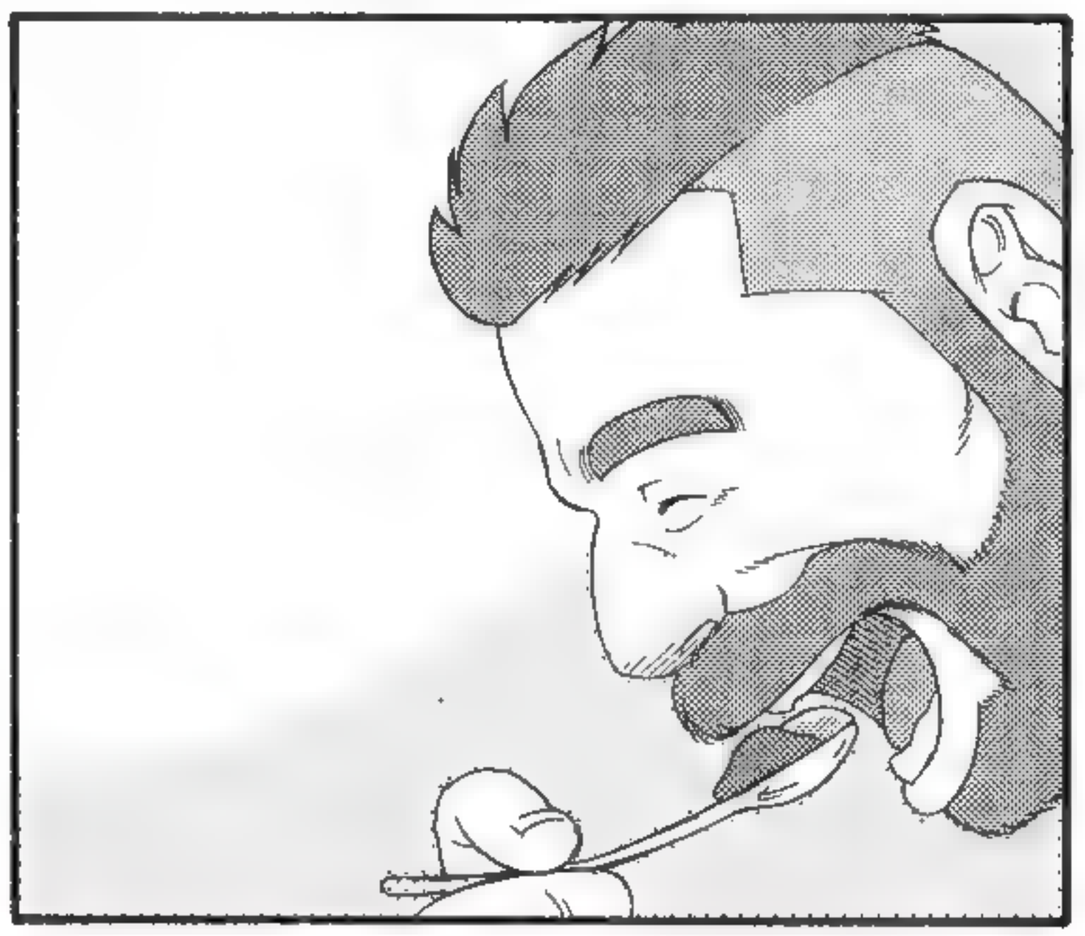
I'M OK, ACTUALLY.

I ONLY MADE MAC AND CHEESE!

DID YOU KNOW MIKE IS GOOD AT COOKING?

I'M NOT GOOD!






110 ワン NOM
110 ワン NOM
110 ワン NOM

DELICIOUS!

MMM...

YAICHI, YOUR BEEF STEW IS STILL THE BEST!

YOU'RE A GENIUS CHEF!

YOU COULD OPEN A RESTAURANT WITH THIS!

REALLY, THOUGH. IT'S SO GOOD!

IT'S REALLY BASIC!

NO, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

DON'T BE AN IDIOT.

HEY, YOU'RE SPILLING YOUR FOOD!

YOU HEAR THAT, DAD? YOU SHOULD OPEN A RESTAURANT!

...

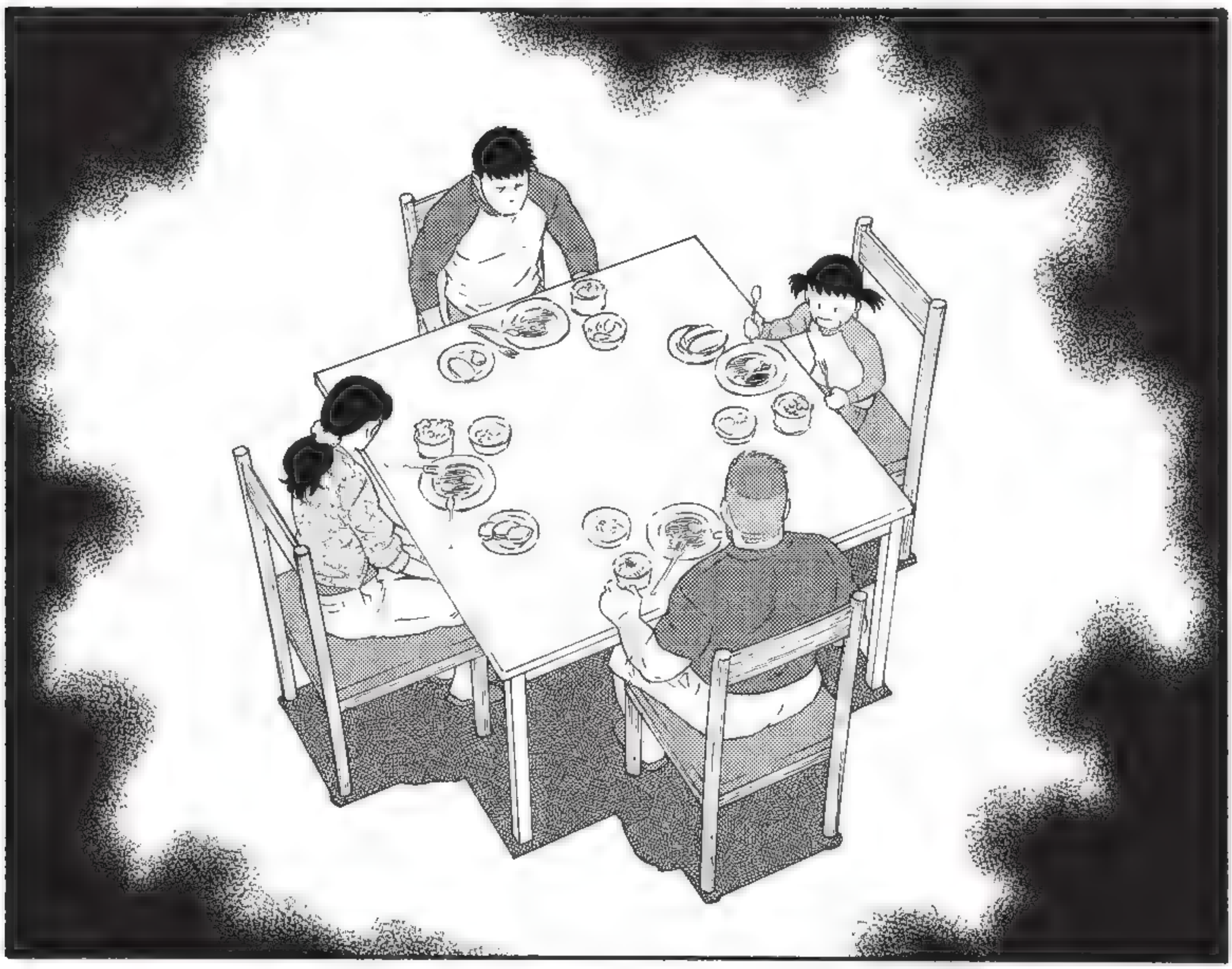
NOM

AW...
I'M HAVING
SO MUCH FUN!

MOM AND DAD AND MIKE ARE ALL HERE! TODAY IS THE BEST!

I WISH IT COULD BE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME!

YEAH, KANA-CHAN.
HUH, MIKE. ISN'T THIS FUN?
I'M HAVING FUN.



SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

OH YEAH, WANNA DRY THOSE PLATES?

LET ME HELP, YAICHI.

IS KANA LONELY?

I WONDER...

I MEAN... MAYBE.

SHE'S CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN SULKING.

EVEN AT THAT AGE...

I GUESS AT THAT AGE...

SHE MIGHT STILL NEED A MOTHER.

TO SEE YOU SOMETIMES.

OF COURSE SHE WANTS...

IT'S NOT JUST US.

THERE ARE SO MANY KIDS OUT THERE RAISED BY SINGLE PARENTS.

I DON'T WANT TO THINK LIKE THAT.

...

I DON'T WANT TO FALL PREY TO THAT MODE OF THINKING.

HOW SAD, SHE'S BEING RAISED BY HER FATHER.

HOW SAD, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A MOTHER.

HOW SAD, SHE DOESN'T HAVE BOTH PARENTS.

SURE, SHE MIGHT FEEL LONELINESS SOMETIMES. I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I'M TRYING TO MAKE KANA AS HAPPY AS I CAN.

THAT'S ACTUALLY DISCRIMINATION.

"THIS IS THE CORRECT WAY TO RAISE CHILDREN.

"EVERYTHING ELSE IS TOO HARD ON THE CHILD."

YOU SHOULD GIVE KANA A BATH AFTER THIS.

YEAH.

HERE.

...

I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN FIT ANOTHER *FUTON* IN YOUR ROOM, KANA.

NO! I'M GONNA SLEEP ON THE *FUTON* WITH HER!

DAD! DAD!

I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH MOM TONIGHT!

MIKE, SORRY BUT COULD YOU HELP ME WITH THE *ZATAKU*?

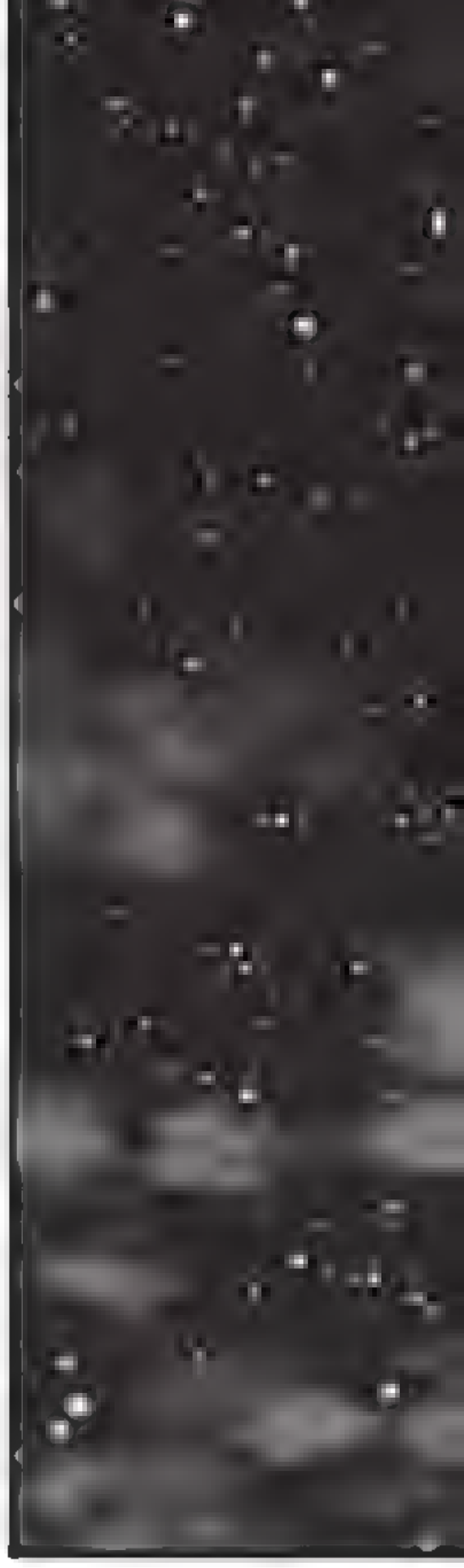
ZA-TAKU?

I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING.

THAT OK, NATSUKI?

I GUESS WE CAN SET YOU UP IN THE BIG ROOM.

*ZATAKU*: SEATING FURNITURE



HEY.

I COULDN'T SLEEP.

WANNA JOIN ME?

NATSUKI...

THERE WAS JUST...

A LOT GOING ON.

WE DIVORCED.

AROUND THE TIME KANA WAS GETTING READY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

WELL.

THAT WASN'T ALWAYS THE CASE.

YOU SEEMED TO GET ALONG SO WELL.

BUT AT DINNER...

NOTICE HOW KANA SAID,

"DON'T BULLY MOM!"

WE'D FIGHT A LOT...

OVER NOTHING.

I DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WAS PAYING ATTENTION.

WE THOUGHT WE WERE BEING SO DISCREET.

WHY DID YOU DIVORCE?

...

BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED...

THINGS WERE GREAT.

...

IT WAS MY FAULT.

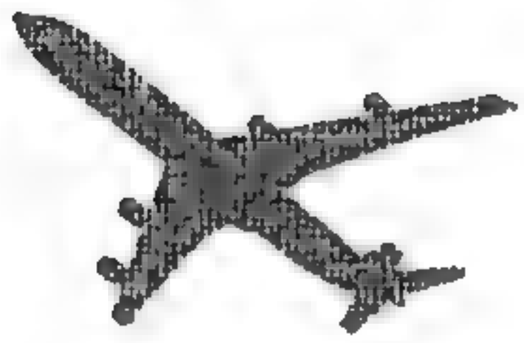
BUT STILL...

I DON'T THINK...

EVEN TODAY, IT'S NOT LIKE WE HATE EACH OTHER.

DON'T WORK OUT.

THE MARRIAGE



# CHAPTER NINE
# *RETURNING*

KANA, HURRY UP OR WE'LL BE LATE!

CAN YOU DO HER HAIR, NATSUKI?

MOMMY'S GOING TO WAIT TO HAVE DINNER WITH YOU

BEFORE LEAVING.

...

I SURE WILL.

MOM, WILL YOU BE HERE WHEN I GET BACK FROM SCHOOL?

MOM, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LEAVE TILL I'M BACK!

OK, I'M GOING NOW!

ガラッ KRRR

SHOULD I MAKE SOME COFFEE, NATSUKI-SAN?

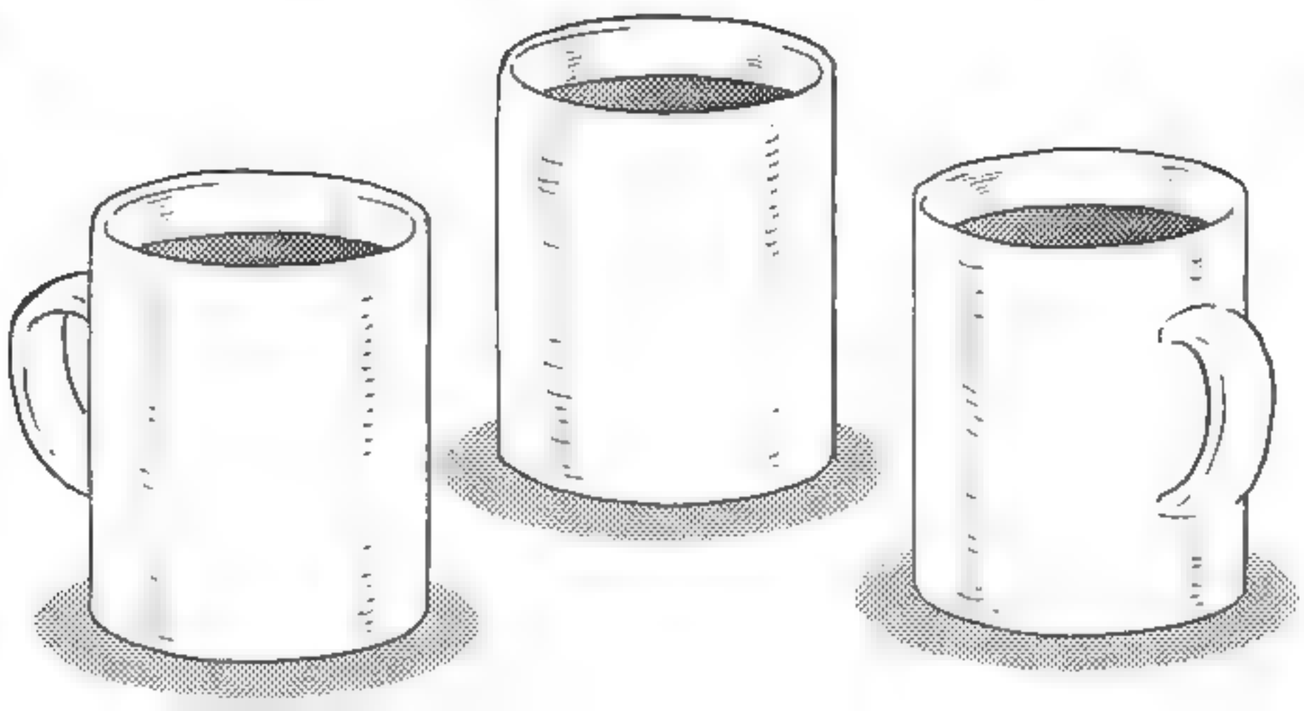
SURE. THANKS!

HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL!

OF COURSE. HAVE A GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL!

YEAH.

DID KANA LEAVE ALREADY?



HOW DID YOU MEET RYOJI?

SO, MIKE...

YEAH?

MORE LIKE THROUGH A DATING APP

UH, WELL... AT A... PARTY?

I, UH...

I HAVE TO GET THE LAUNDRY.

ガタン
THUNK

ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
THUNK
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
THUNK
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
ゴウン
THUNK
HEY.
...

HE WENT TO THE POST OFFICE.

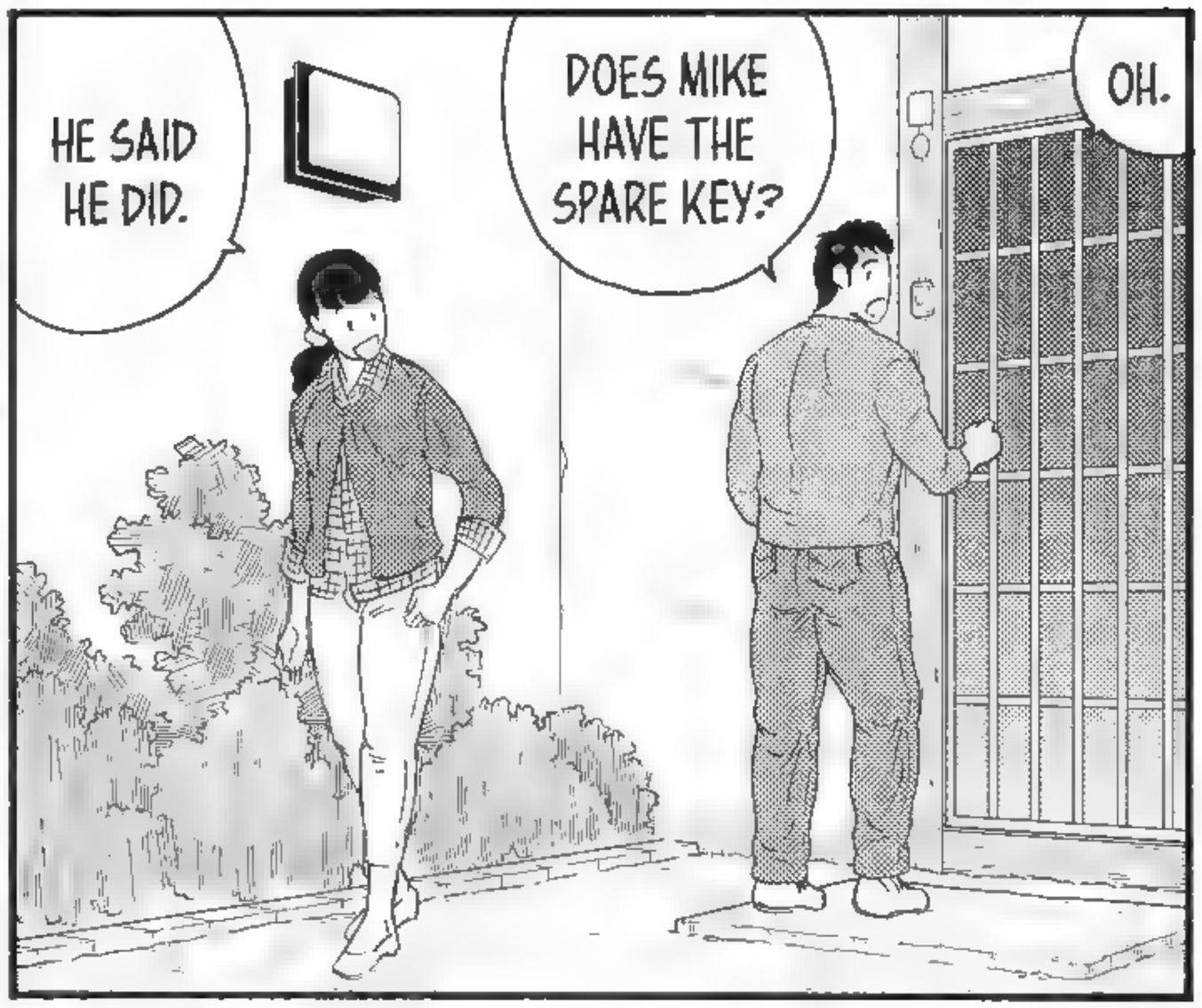
OH.

WHERE'S MIKE?

YOU FEEL LIKE GOING FOR A WALK?

WHEN YOU'RE DONE...

SURE, I GUESS.


HE SAID HE DID.
DOES MIKE HAVE THE SPARE KEY?
OH.

THERE WAS A BOY STANDING THERE LOOKING THIS WAY.

WHEN I SAW HIM, HE TOOK OFF RUNNING.

OH, WELL JUST NOW, OVER THERE...

WHAT'S WRONG?

THANKS FOR WAITING.

NO, THAT'S NOT THE IMPRESSION I GOT.

I MEAN, HE LOOKED LIKE HE'S IN JUNIOR HIGH.

HE WASN'T LIKE A PERVERT OR SOMETHING, WAS HE?

RUNNING?

I MIGHT'VE GOTTEN IT WRONG.

I DUNNO!

SHOULDN'T HE BE IN SCHOOL?

JUNIOR HIGH?

YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD DAD TO HER.

THANKS.

FOR WHAT?

FOR KANA.

I DO.

KANA DOES, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW...

IF I'VE BEEN SO GREAT.

REALLY?

ALL SHE DOES IS TALK ABOUT "DADDY"?

DO YOU KNOW THAT WHEN I TALK TO KANA...

HA.

LET ME GUESS...

EXCEPT LAST NIGHT SHE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT...

I KNEW IT.

MIKE!

RIGHT?

MIKE.

HE SEEMS REALLY NICE...

ALL DAY IT'S "MIKE! MIKE! MIKE!"

SHE'S BECOME OBSESSED WITH HIM.

YEAH...

I MEAN...

HE'S BEEN HERE ONLY A FEW DAYS.

BUT HE IS A GOOD GUY...

I THINK.

NO...

ASKED HIM ABOUT YOUR BROTHER?

HAVE YOU...

WELL, ONE DAY...

MAYBE.

MM...

HE'S YOUR ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE.

WHY NOT?

I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK HIM ABOUT RYOJI.

BEFORE...

BEFORE
HE LEAVES.

MIKE MIKE MIKE MIKE.

WHAT'S WITH YOU?

YOU SOUND LIKE KANA.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU.

I KNOW.

I'M SORRY.

HUH?

YOU HAVE ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

FOR KANA.

I'M *BEING* A SPECIAL SOMEONE...

"SPECIAL."

TCH, NO.

...

SOMEONE SPECIAL?

AND...

YOU?

...

MY WORK IS MY LOVER!

ME?

WANNA GO SOMEWHERE?

HEY...

WELL, I'M OFF, KANA!

YES!

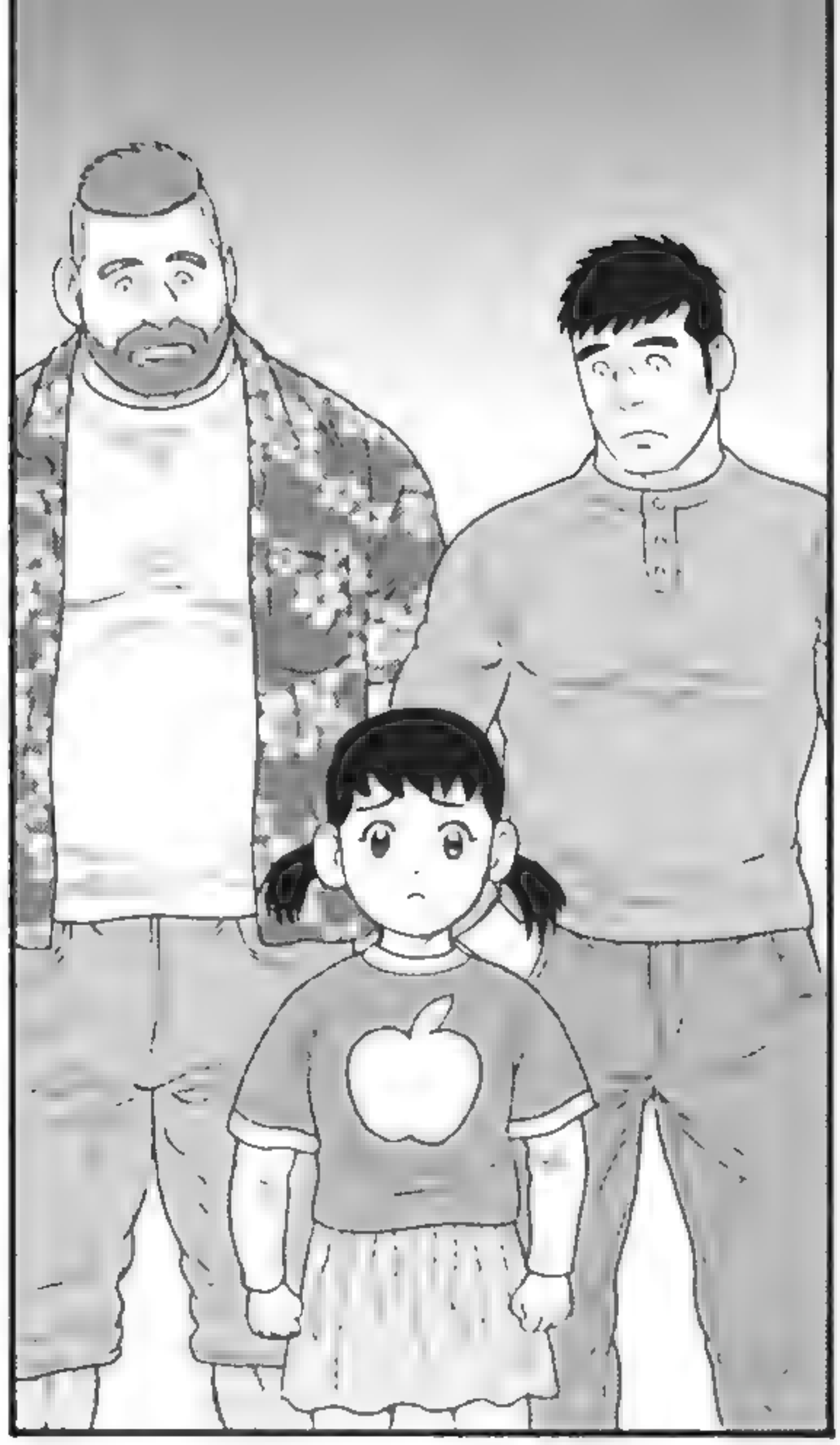
NEXT TIME WHEN I GET TIME OFF WORK,

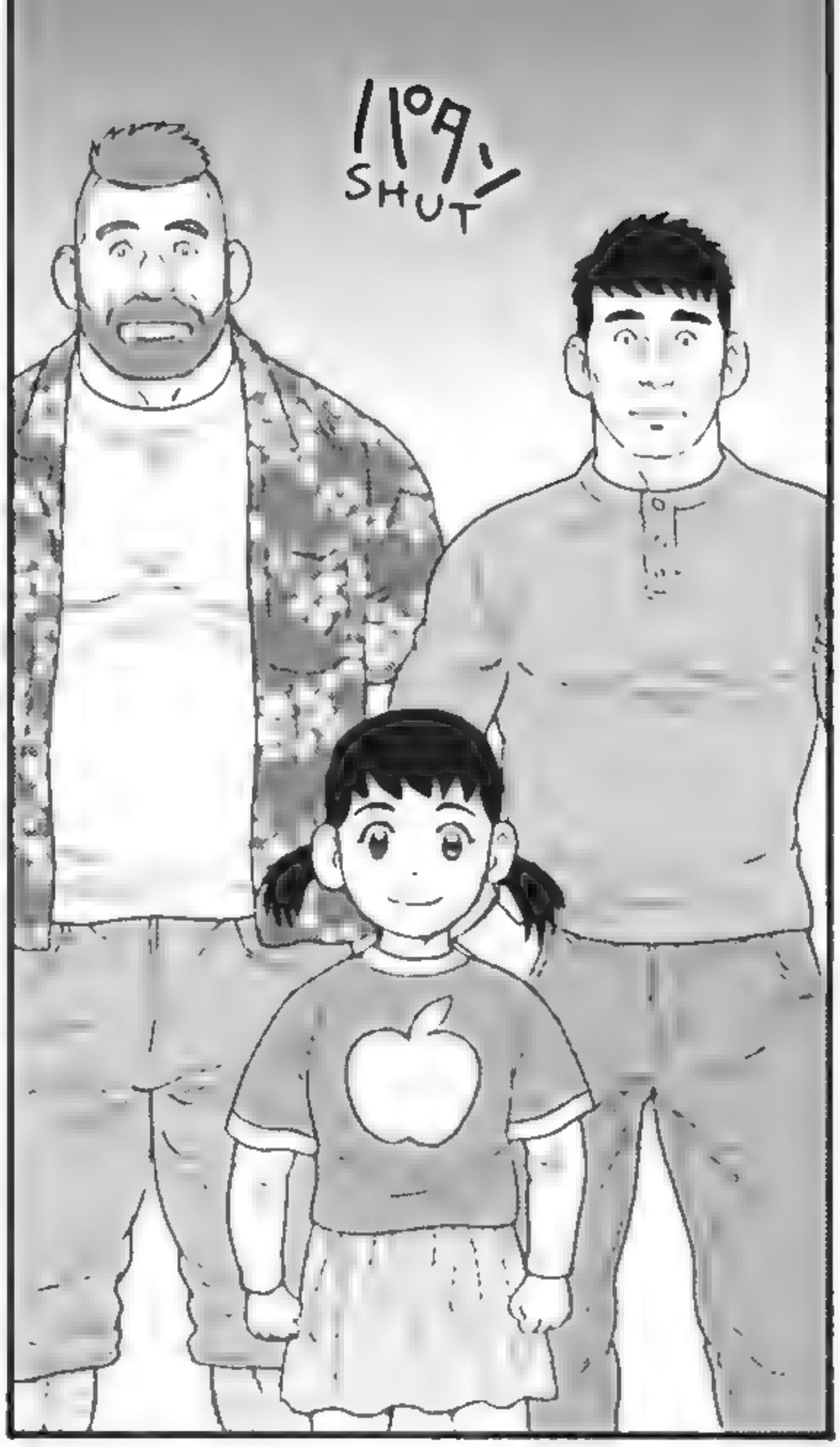
WILL YOU COME AND STAY WITH ME?

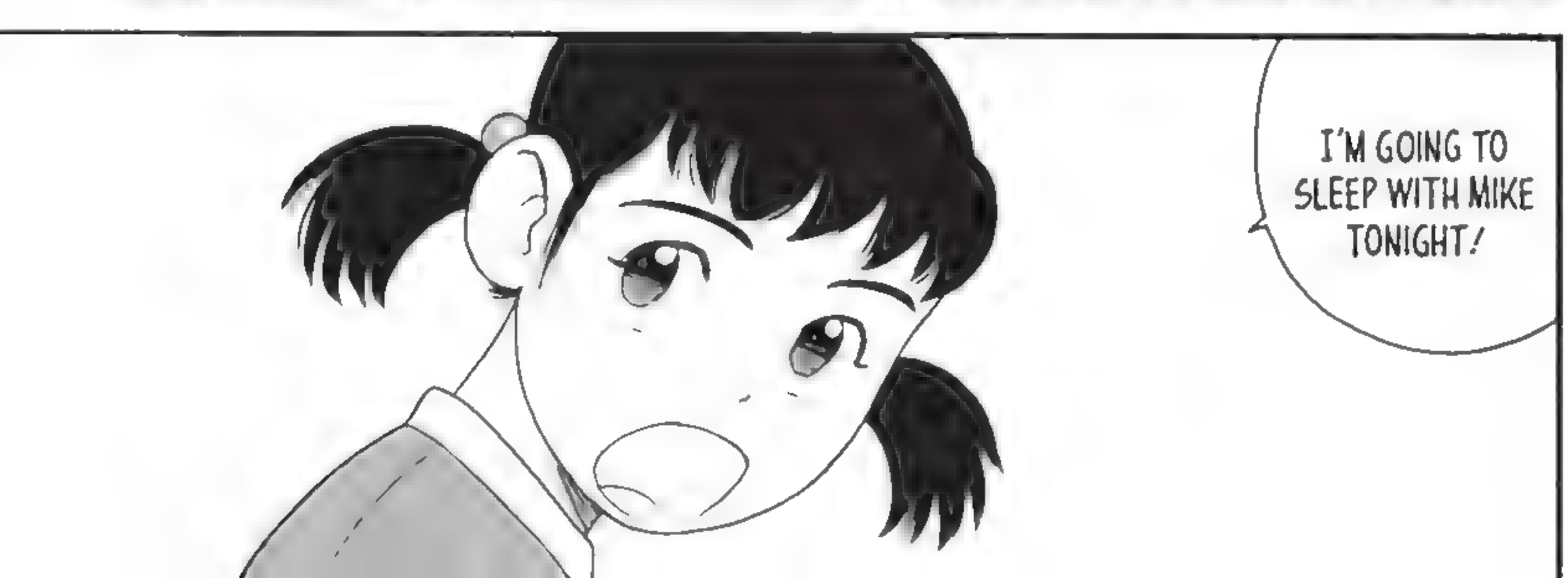
GOOD NIGHT.

GOODBYE!

カラカラ CREAK カラカラ




SHUT
!ﾊﾝﾉ


I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH MIKE TONIGHT!

THAT'S FINE!

REALLY?!

HEY, KANA, C'MON.

WHAT?!

ME?

I WANT TO SLEEP WITH MIKE!

FINE...

...

YES?

...

MIKE?

ARE YOU LEAVING, TOO?

BACK TO CANADA?

ドサッ

Squeeze

ユ…

…!!

...

YES, BUT...

NOT YET.

...

KANA?

ｽｽｽｽ

I MADE A PROMISE TO [illegible].

I INTEND TO KEEP.

# CHAPTER TEN
# *CURRY*

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ゴオー

ガラッ

...

KANA?

ｸﾞｫ...

SNAP

MIKE WAS SNORING SO LOUD!!

CUZ!

KANA! YOU DON'T SPEAK LIKE THAT!

UGHH, I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP, MIKE!

IT'S YOUR FAULT!

I'M SORRY, KANA-CHAN!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON SLEEPING IN HIS ROOM.

PEOPLE CAN'T CONTROL WHETHER THEY SNORE OR NOT.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

AW, NOT FAIR.

... NO.

SEE?

IF I TOLD YOU TO STOP KICKING YOUR BLANKET IN YOUR SLEEP,

COULD YOU?

FOR EXAMPLE...

NOW...

SAY "SORRY" TO MIKE!

IT'S THE SAME WITH MIKE'S SNORING.

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT YOU COULDN'T SLEEP.

...

...

PLEASE DON'T WORRY, KANA-CHAN!

OH NO! DON'T BE SORRY!

I'M SORRY, MIKE.

NOW, EAT YOUR BREAKFAST!

WELL, THAT'S THAT.

...

I'M GOING NOW...

HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL.

SEE YOU LATER, KANA-CHAN!

...

DO YOU HATE ME NOW, MIKE?

WHAT'S WRONG, KANA?

BECAUSE OF THE SNORING THING.

OF COURSE NOT!

WHY?

HUH?

ME?

THEN...

BECAUSE I BLAMED YOU FOR SNORING AND...

OH, THAT?

DON'T WORRY! I WAS NOT HURT BY THAT AT ALL!

NOTHING'S CHANGED.

I STILL LIKE YOU, KANA-CHAN!

OKAY! KANA-CHAN, HUG!

I WANT A HUG THEN!

REALLY?!

YES, REALLY.

OH YAY! OH YAY!

PEER

GULP

HEY HEY HEY!!

DADDY, HUG!

OF COURSE I DO!!

DON'T YOU LOVE ME, DADDY?

AWW.

BUT...

WHY NOT?

THEN HUG ME!

AH...

WHY...

I MEAN...

IT'S NOT CUSTOMARY!

JAPANESE PEOPLE DON'T HUG!

O-KAY. SEE YA.

C'MON, ALREADY.

CUS-TOM-ARY?

YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.

...

WAIT!

WHAT IS IT NOW?

MIKE!

WILL YOU BE HOME TODAY, MIKE?

YES?

YUKI-CHAN?

ONE OF KANA'S FRIENDS.

GIRL.

BEST FRIEND.

I'LL BRING HER OVER AFTER SCHOOL.

I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO YUKI!

OK, I'M REALLY GOING NOW!

REALLY? PROMISE?

KRRR

SLAM

I UNDERSTAND.

I WILL BE AT HOME THEN.

WHAT A MORNING, EH?

I'M ALREADY TIRED.

I'LL PUT ON THE COFFEE.

OK.

:SIGH:

...

ABOUT HUGGING.

HUH?

JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE VERY SHY, AREN'T THEY.

OH...

WHEN YOU SAY "AT FIRST,"

YOU MEAN HE DID IT LATER?

HMM.

RYOJI WAS TOO SHY TO HUG PEOPLE IN PUBLIC AT FIRST.

YES.

HE SAW EVERYONE ELSE DOING IT AND STARTED TO DO IT NORMALLY AFTER.

DOING IT MYSELF SEEMS... AWKWARD.

I'M NOT OPPOSED TO IT OR ANYTHING.

I THINK IT LOOKS SWEET WHEN I SEE IT IN MOVIES, BUT...

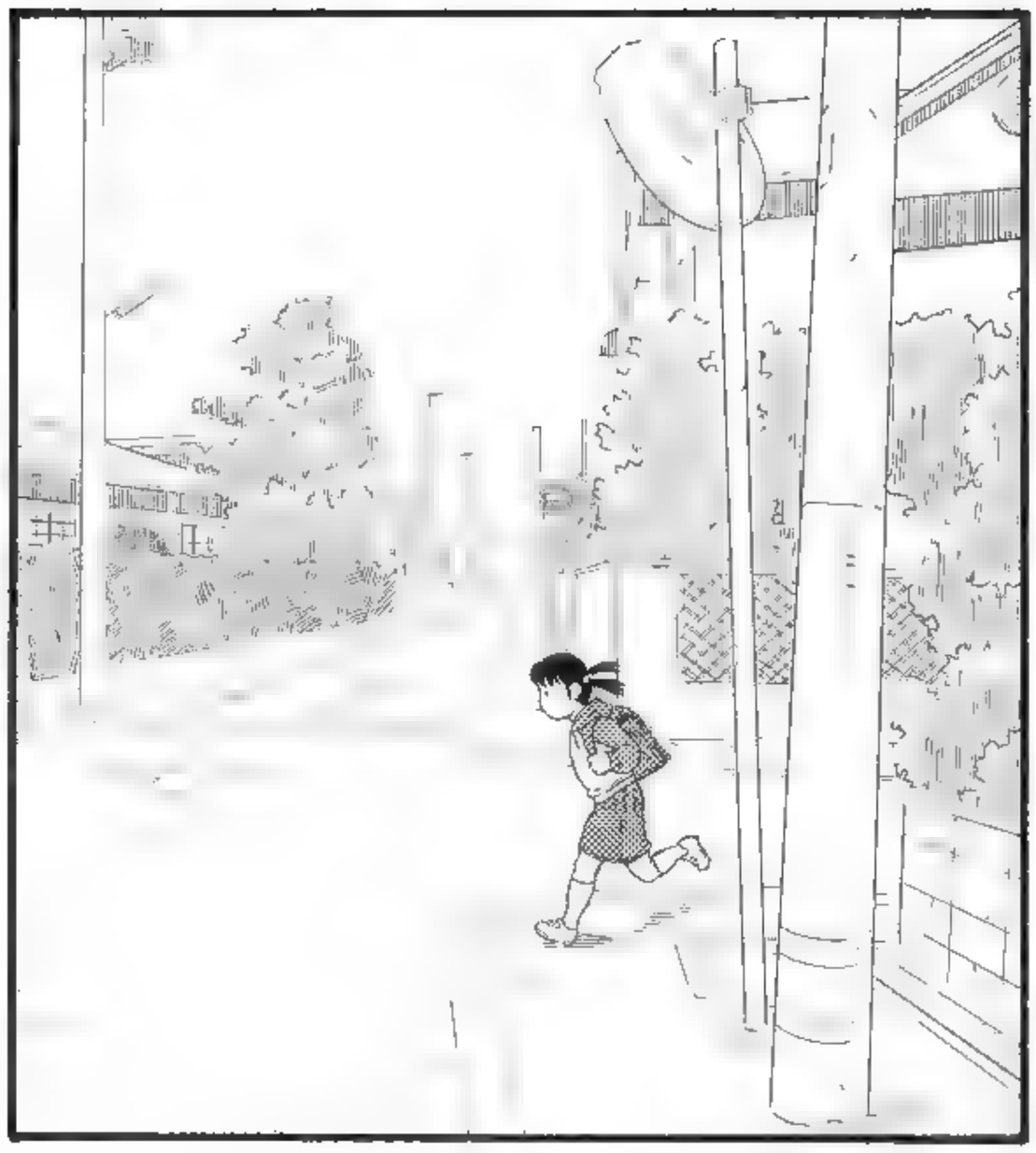
...

SHE'S STILL A KID, SO...

BUT KANA-CHAN DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THAT.

KIDS ARE LUCKY.
THEY DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT STUFF.

OH...

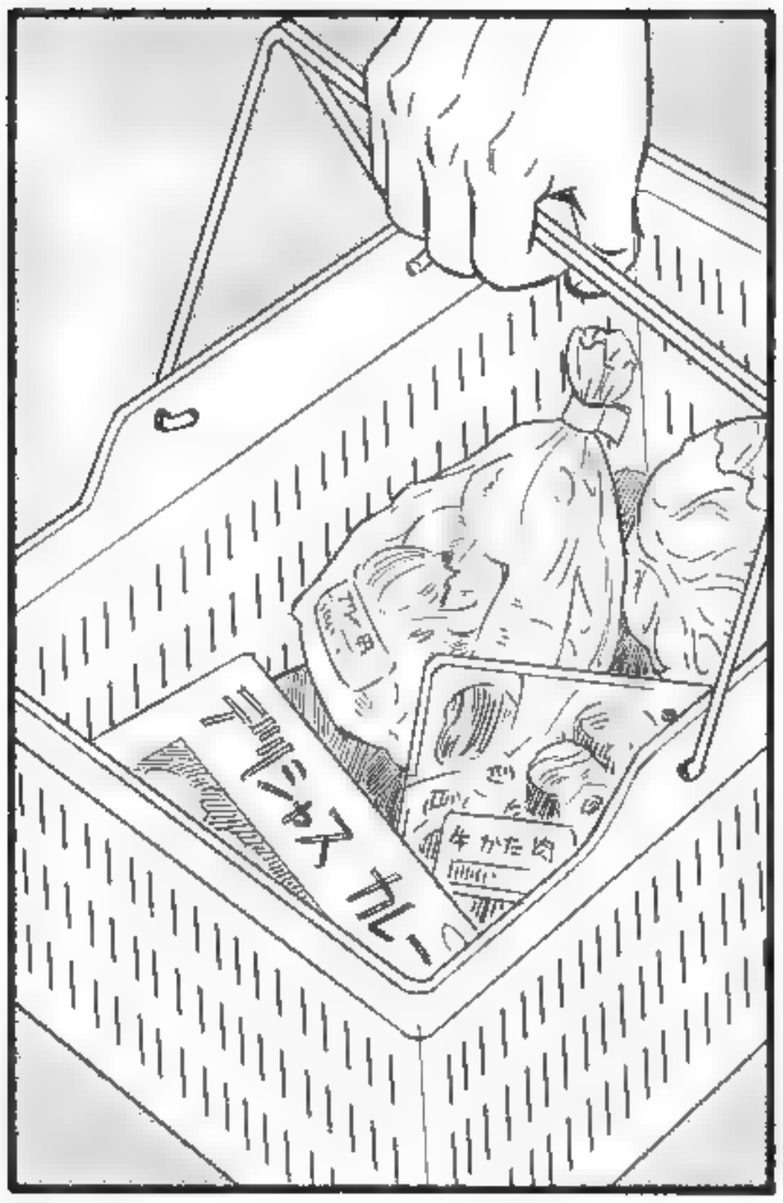


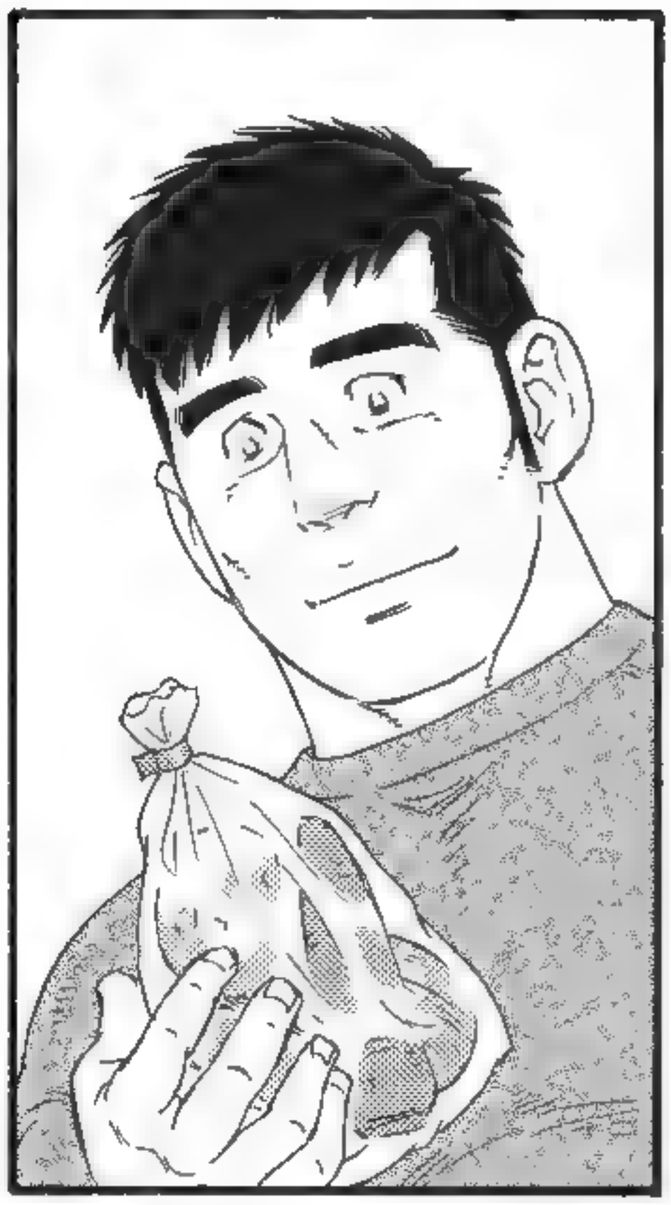
DID YOU DO THE HOMEWORK?
OH, HI KANA!
YUKI!


I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
ABOUT THAT, KANA...


OH... UM...
WAIT, SO MIKE WILL BE AT MY HOUSE TODAY!

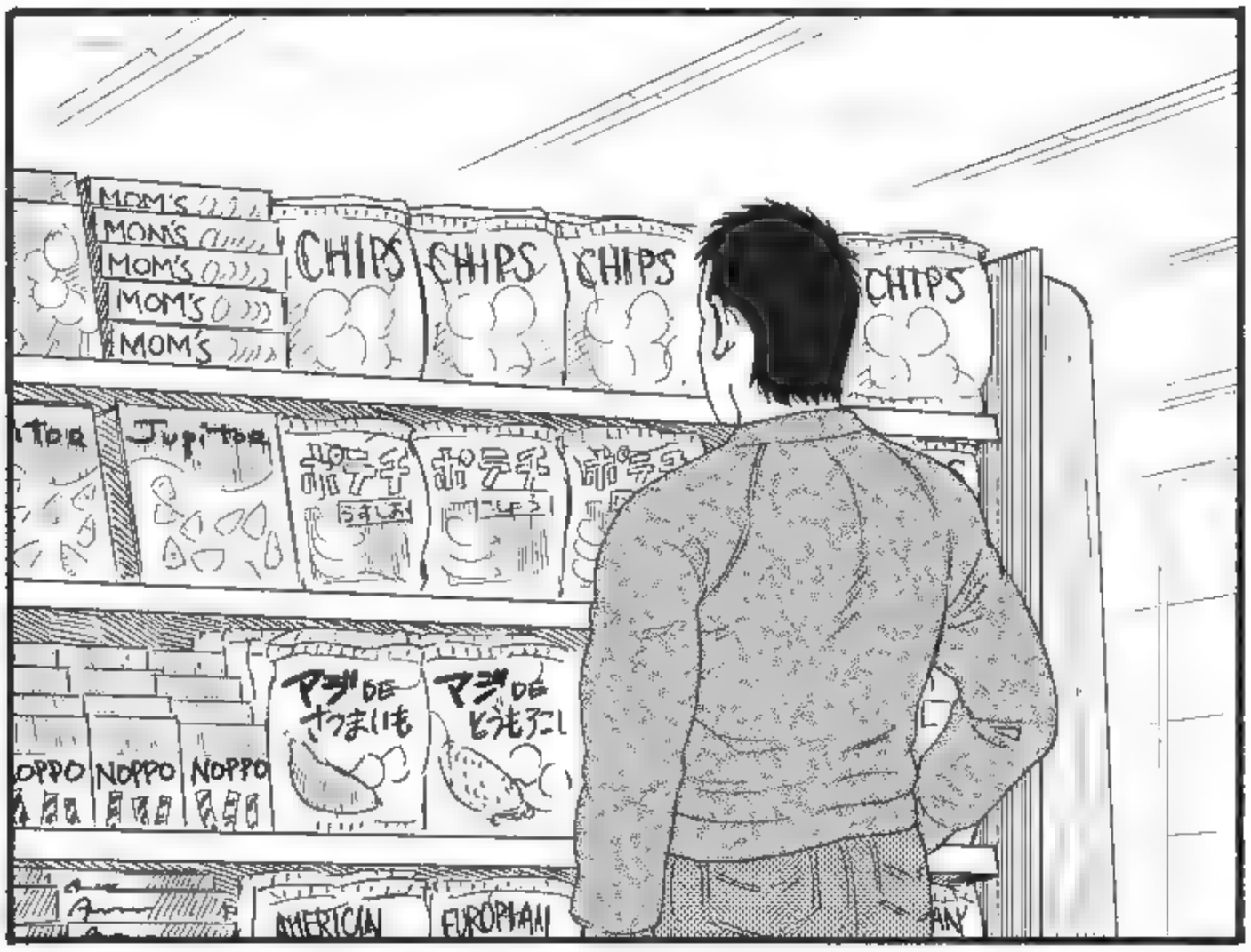
WHAT?


デミタス カレー
牛かた肉



カレー用
CURRY VEGETABLES
246円

お菓子・スナック
CHIPS・SNACKS


MOM'S
CHIPS
Jupiter
NOPPO
AMERICAN
EUROPEAN

YUKI'S MOTHER!

OH...

冷凍食品
FROZEN FOOD

KONNICHIWA!

NOODLE

ACE

冷凍食品
FROZEN FOOD

…

WHAT THE...?

I'M HOME.

KRR

YUKI? YEAH... SHE ISN'T COMING.

IS THAT RIGHT.

WELCOME BACK, KANA-CHAN.

HI, MIKE.

HEY, WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?

...
I DUNNO.
HEY THERE.
HI DAD.
AW, I'M SORRY, KANA.
WHY ISN'T YUKI COMING OVER?
I'M SORRY, MIKE.
YEAH.
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE!
YES?
DADA?
UM...

A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE IS SOMEONE WHO...

THAT'S A HARD QUESTION.

YOU MEAN LIKE "A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE"?

WHAT DOES NEGATIVE INFLUENCE MEAN?

WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT TERM?

KANA

...

DAD, ARE YOU MAKING CURRY?!

Y-YEAH.

YAY!!

...

OH!!

IT WAS YUKI'S MOM.

I LOVE CURRY!

DO YOU LIKE CURRY, KANA?

DO THEY HAVE CURRY IN CANADA?

THEY DO, BUT NOT SO MUCH JAPANESE CURRY.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE ARE A LOT OF INDIAN AND THAI CURRY RESTAURANTS.

BUT NOT JAPANESE CURRY RESTAURANTS.

INDIAN AND THAI CURRY?!

IS THAT DIFFERENT THAN NORMAL CURRY?

AWW, I WANT TO TRY IT!

HMM, BUT IT IS VERY SPICY SO IT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU, KANA.

*NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.*

DOES THAT MEAN THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME TRYING JAPANESE CURRY?

OH NO, RYOJI WOULD MAKE IT FOR ME.

I LIKE IT A LOT!

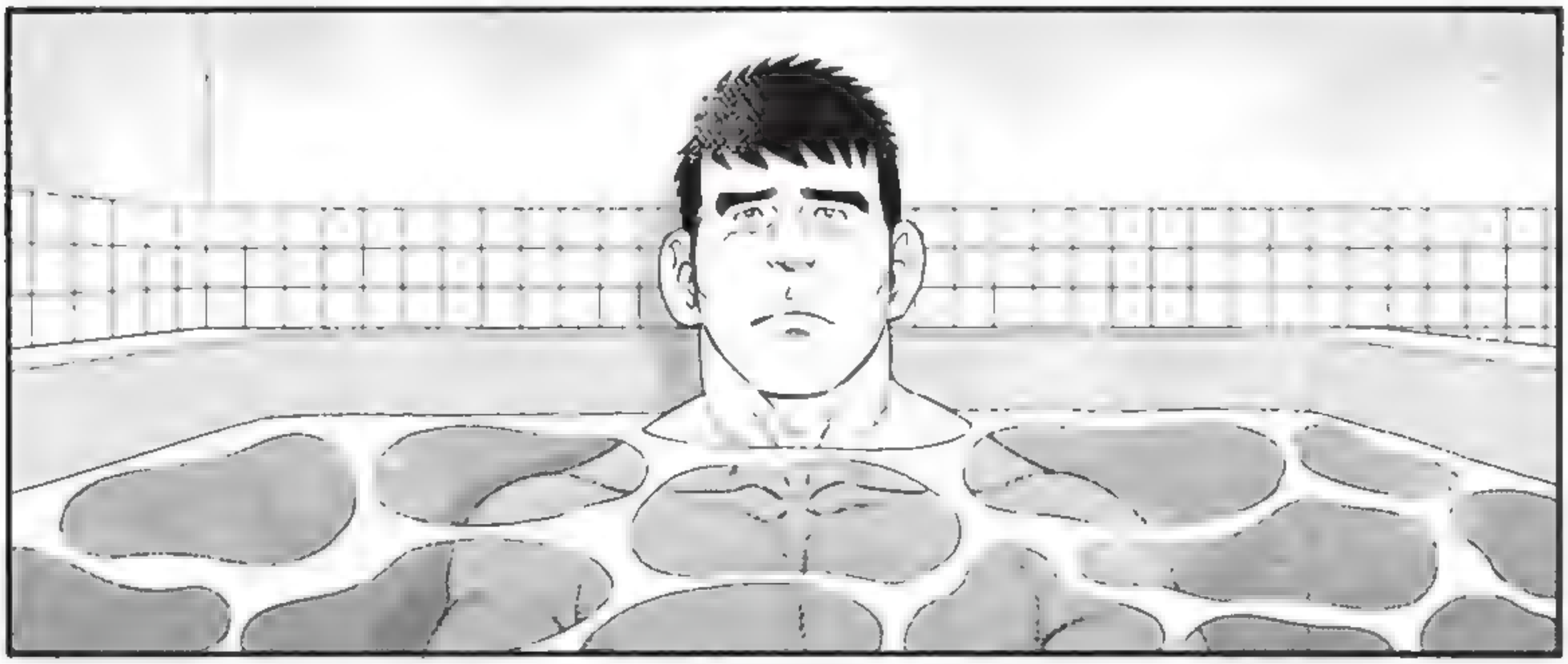
*NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.*

IS THAT WHAT SHE SAID?

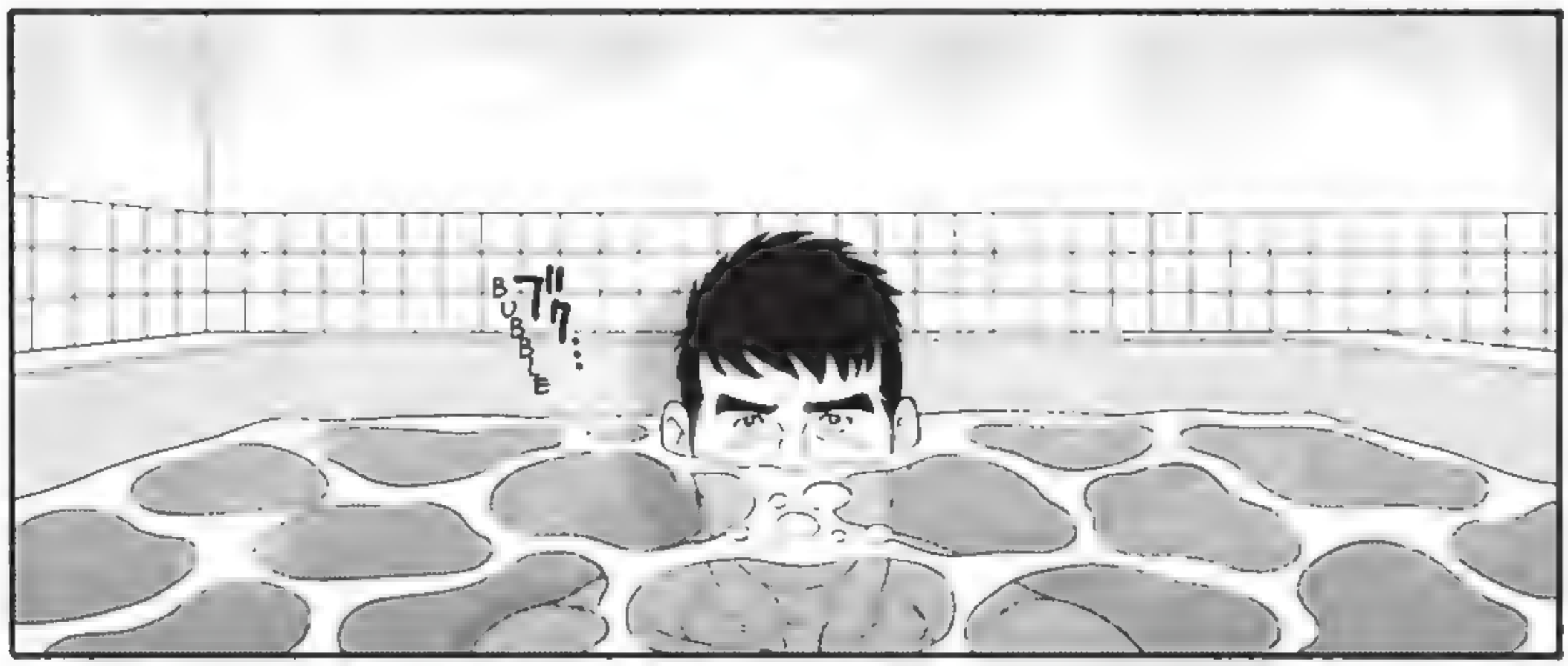
YUKI'S MOTHER...

SWISH

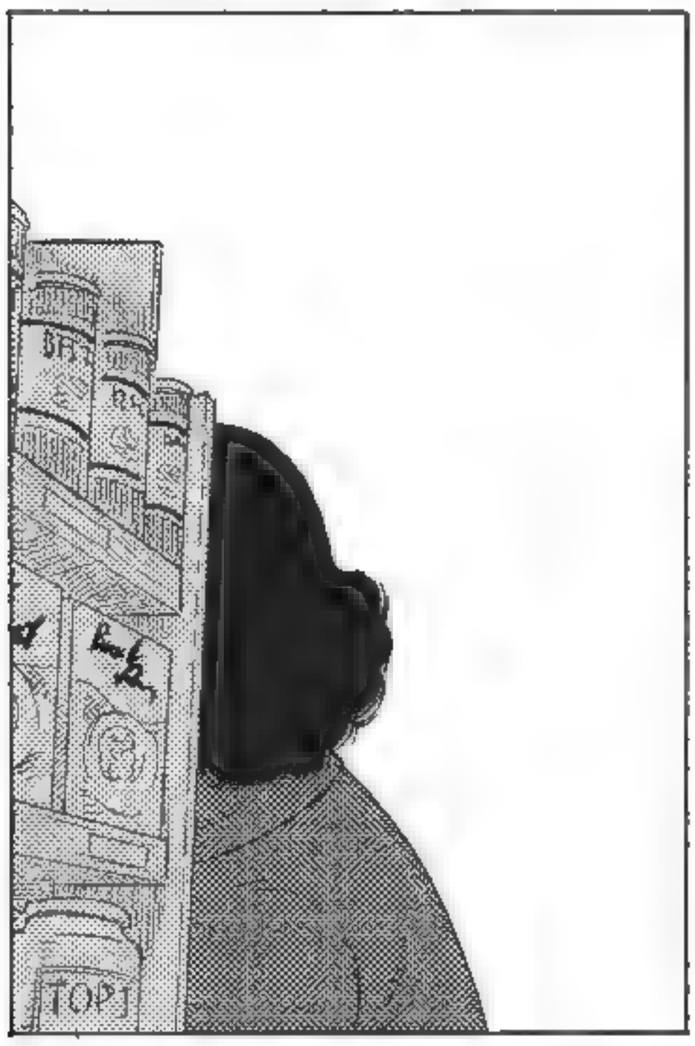
# CHAPTER ELEVEN
# BAD GUYS



WHAT'S A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE?
HEY DAD?

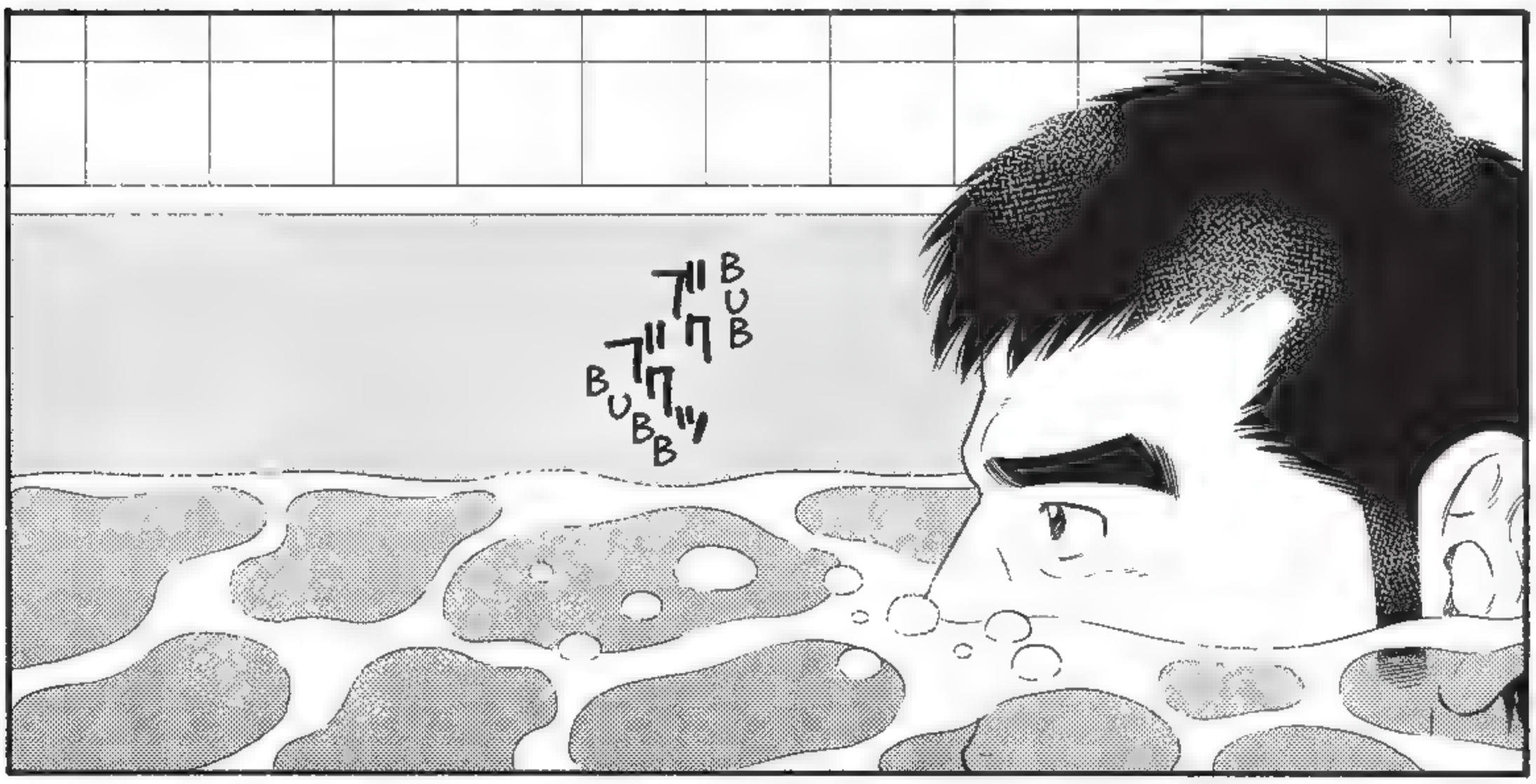

BUBBLE
7 11 7...

YUKI'S MOM...


TOP

TOP

TOP


BUB
BUBB

I'M SORRY, KANA.

SCRUB SCRUB SCRUB

AWW!

SO I CAN'T COME OVER.

MY MOM SAID SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT NEGATIVE INFLUENCES.

STUPID.

IT'S PROBABLY JUST ME.

I'M BEING PARANOID.

ｻﾗｻﾗ

ｻﾗｻﾗ

ｻﾗｻﾗ

ｻﾗｻﾗ

WHAT KIND OF ADULT SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT TO A CHILD?

...

SCRUB SCRUB

ゴシ

ゴシ

ゴシ

...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD PASS ON TOMORROW.
OK?
HUH? WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I SAID SO!
OH...
YOU'RE GOING TO KANA-CHAN'S HOUSE TO MEET HER UNCLE?
YEAH!
?
JUST LET HER GO!
HONEY, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.
YOU NEVER KNOW IF THEY'LL BE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.

I CAN'T LET MY IMAGINATION RUN WILD!

UGH, SHIT!

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ SCRUB

ゴッ

ゴッ

...

BUT

IF MY IMAGINATION

IS RIGHT...

I OVERTHINK THINGS AND THEN GET MAD ABOUT NOTHING.

I CAN'T LET THIS GET TO ME.

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ SCRUB

ゴッ

ゴッ

THIS WOULD BE
A [illegible]

JUST BECAUSE HE SAYS HE'S HOMOSEXUAL.

TREATING HIM LIKE A SEXUAL CRIMINAL.

KIDS SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM SOME PEOPLE...

IF THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT THEIR

FEEF

SPLASH

PEOPLE HAVE SEX.

THAT'S STILL WRONG.

IS IT BECAUSE IT'S SEXUAL?

ME AND NATSUKI.

YUKI'S MOTHER AND FATHER.

BUT BECAUSE THEY'RE SAME-SEX...

JUST BECAUSE OF THAT, THEY ARE LABELED CRIMINALS?

IT'S

NOT RIGHT.

I'M TURNING INTO MY DAUGHTER.

DAMN.

STILL..

EVEN I...

AT OUR HOUSE THAT NIGHT..

WHEN MIKE FIRST APPEARED

KANA!
BED!
NOW!!

I ONLY GOT UPSET

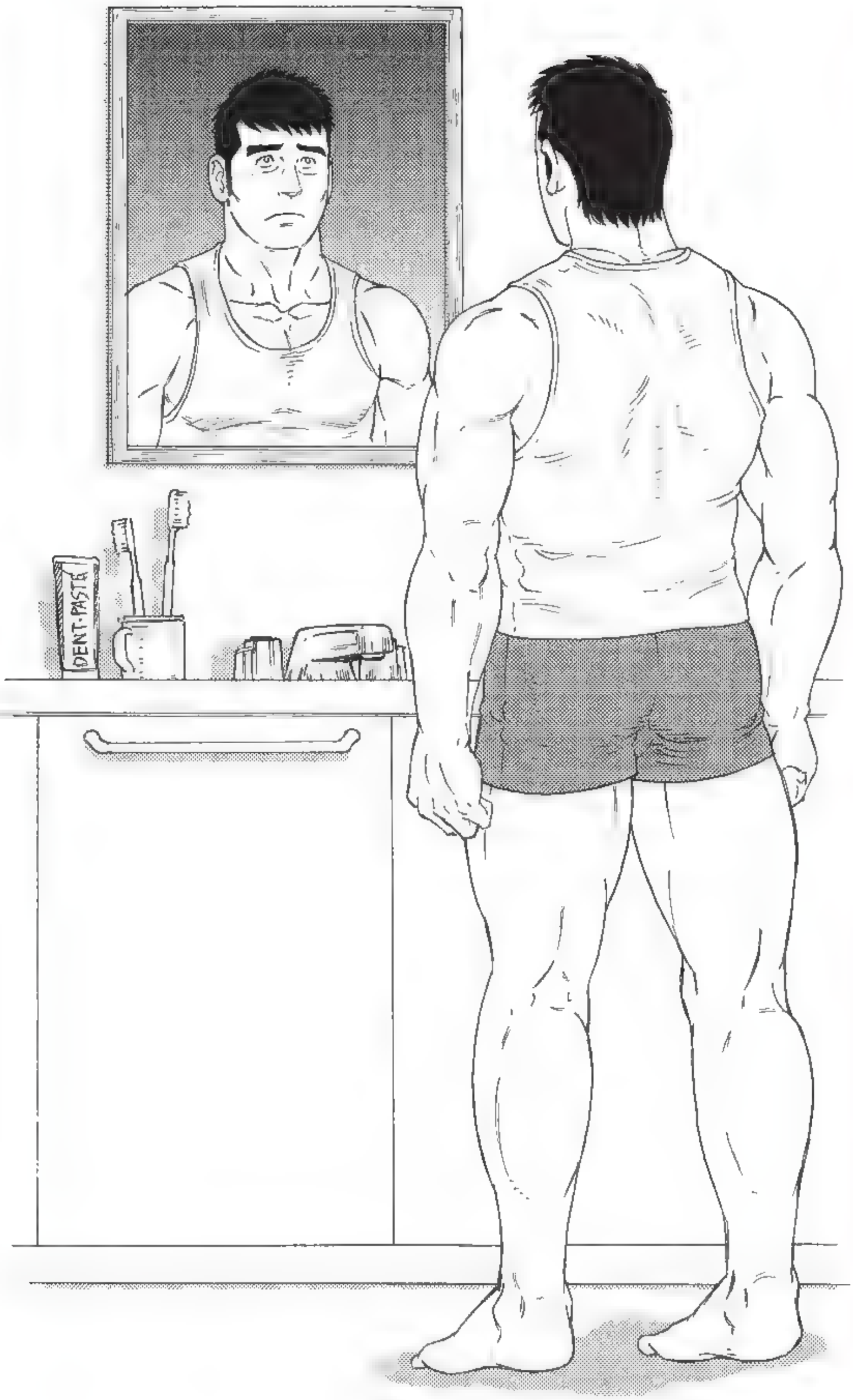
BECAUSE...

DAMMIT!

I'M NOT ONE TO SPEAK. I'M NO BETTER THAN YUKI'S MOM.

YAICHI...

IS THAT HOW YOU THOUGHT OF ME?


DENT-PASTE

YESTERDAY YOU MENTIONED YUKI'S MOM SAYING SOMETHING.

...

HEY, KANA.

...

WHAT, DAD?

NEGATIVE INFLUENCE!

...

A BAD GUY?

IS MIKE...

IT'S WRONG!

HE IS MY UNCLE!

MIKE'S NOT A BAD GUY!

NO, I'M...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

MY UNCLE IS NOT A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE!

WAAAAA

—SASPY

WHOOO

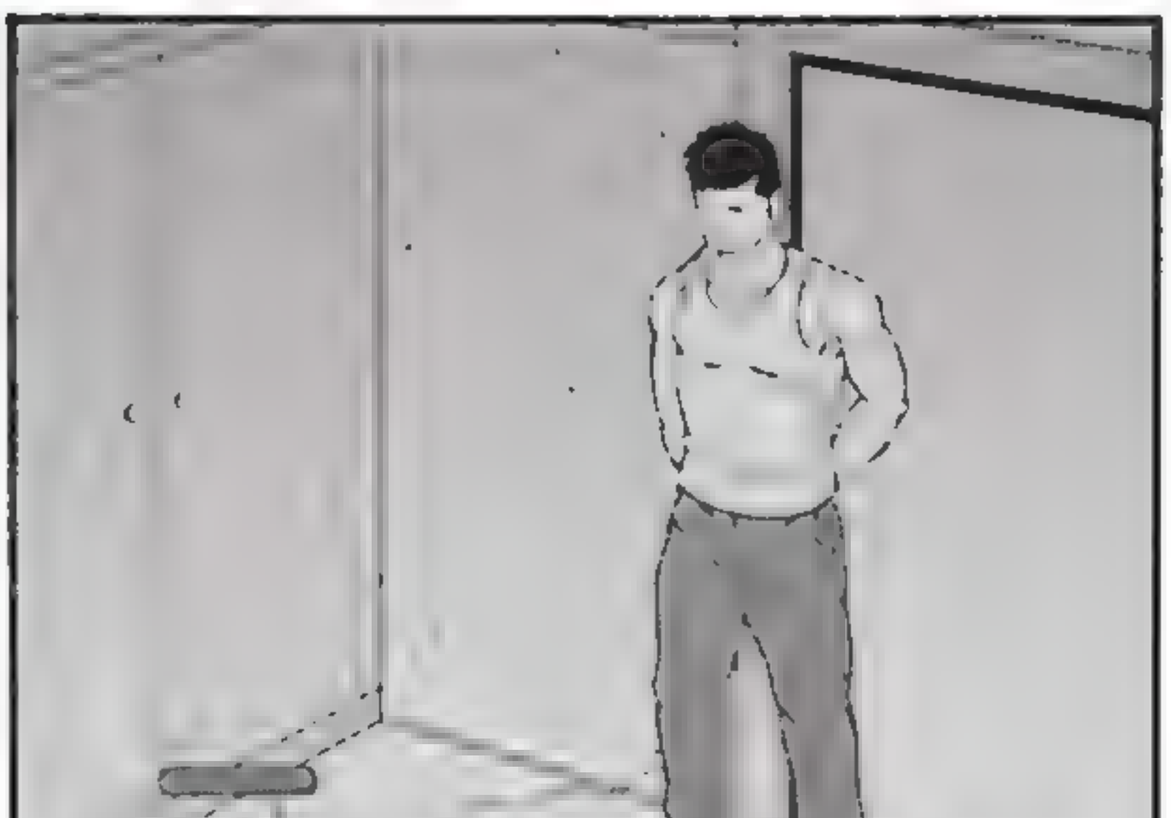
CREAK

BANK

SMIRK

ピンポーン
ピンポーン
ピンポーン

ANYWAY,



I KNOW WHAT
I HAVE TO DO.

THIS ISN'T ROCKET SCIENCE.

RATHER THAN TELL HER THAT PEOPLE

THINK HE'S SINFUL,

FOR REASONS THAT KANA

CAN'T PARSE YET, SHE LOVES MIKE.

I'LL PROTECT HER FROM HARMFUL THOUGHTS,

AND RAISE HER TO NOT CAUSE HARM.

AS HER FATHER.

THAT'S MY DUTY

AND FOR MIKE.

FOR KANA,

..Eh?

Ryo...?

# CHAPTER TWELVE
# *THE GYM*

I'M HOME!

ガラララ

KRRRR

ドサッ

THUD

ドタドタドタドタッ

THUD

DAD, HURRY!

ALRIGHT, JEEZ.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KANA-CHAN?

STILL?

THE POOL!

I WASN'T THINKING, BUT YEAH, DO YOU?

DO YOU WANNA COME, MIKE?

THAT SOUNDS FUN!

OOH, THE POOL!

TO MY SWIM CLASS, BUT DAD TAKES ME.

I'M GOING...

NOT THE POOL PER SE...

THE POOL?

I WORK OUT AT THE GYM INSIDE.

WHILE KANA'S TAKING HER SWIM CLASS...

IT'S LIKE OUR COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER.

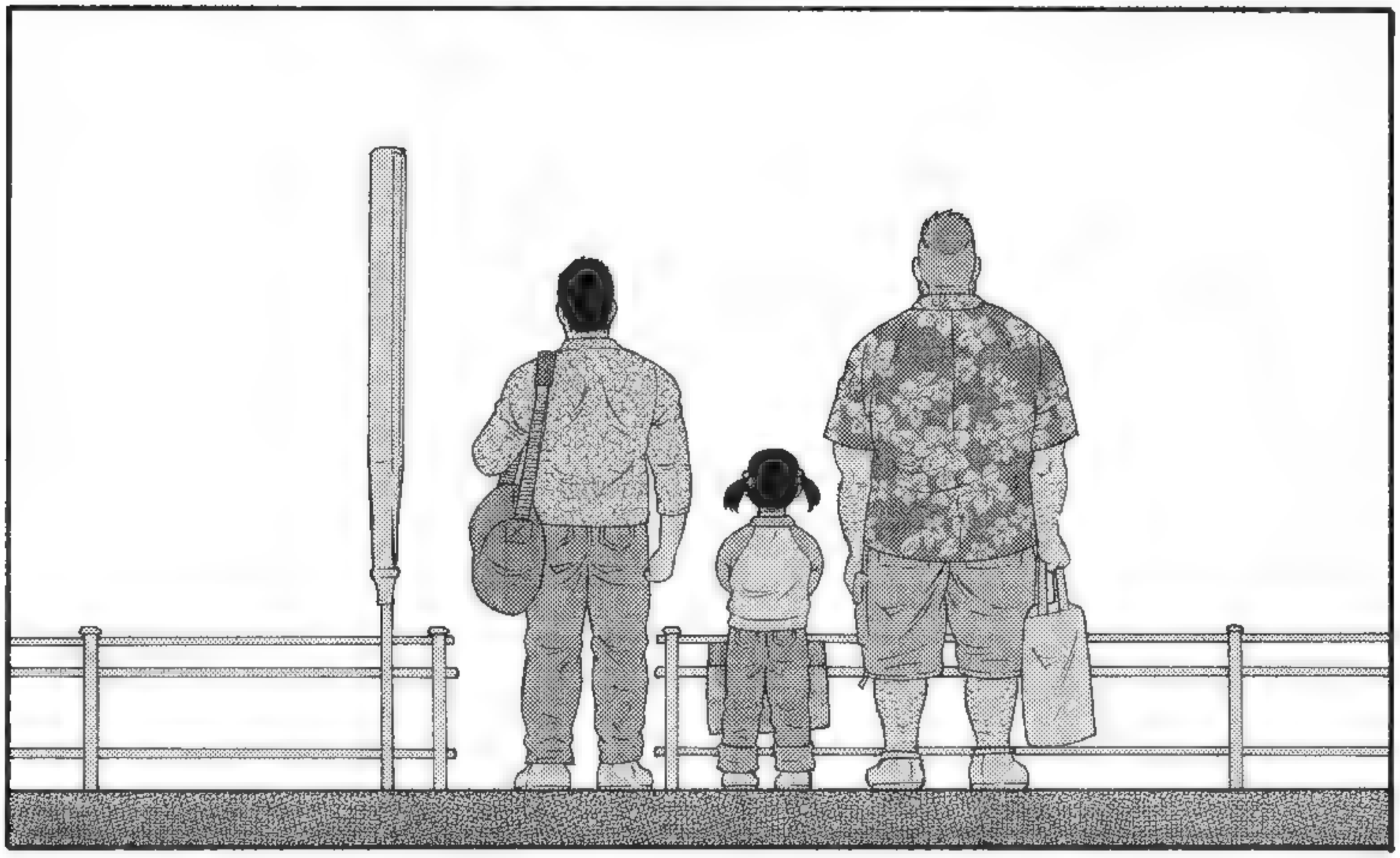
THERE'S A PROPER GYM INSIDE.

YES?

YES, I WILL GO!

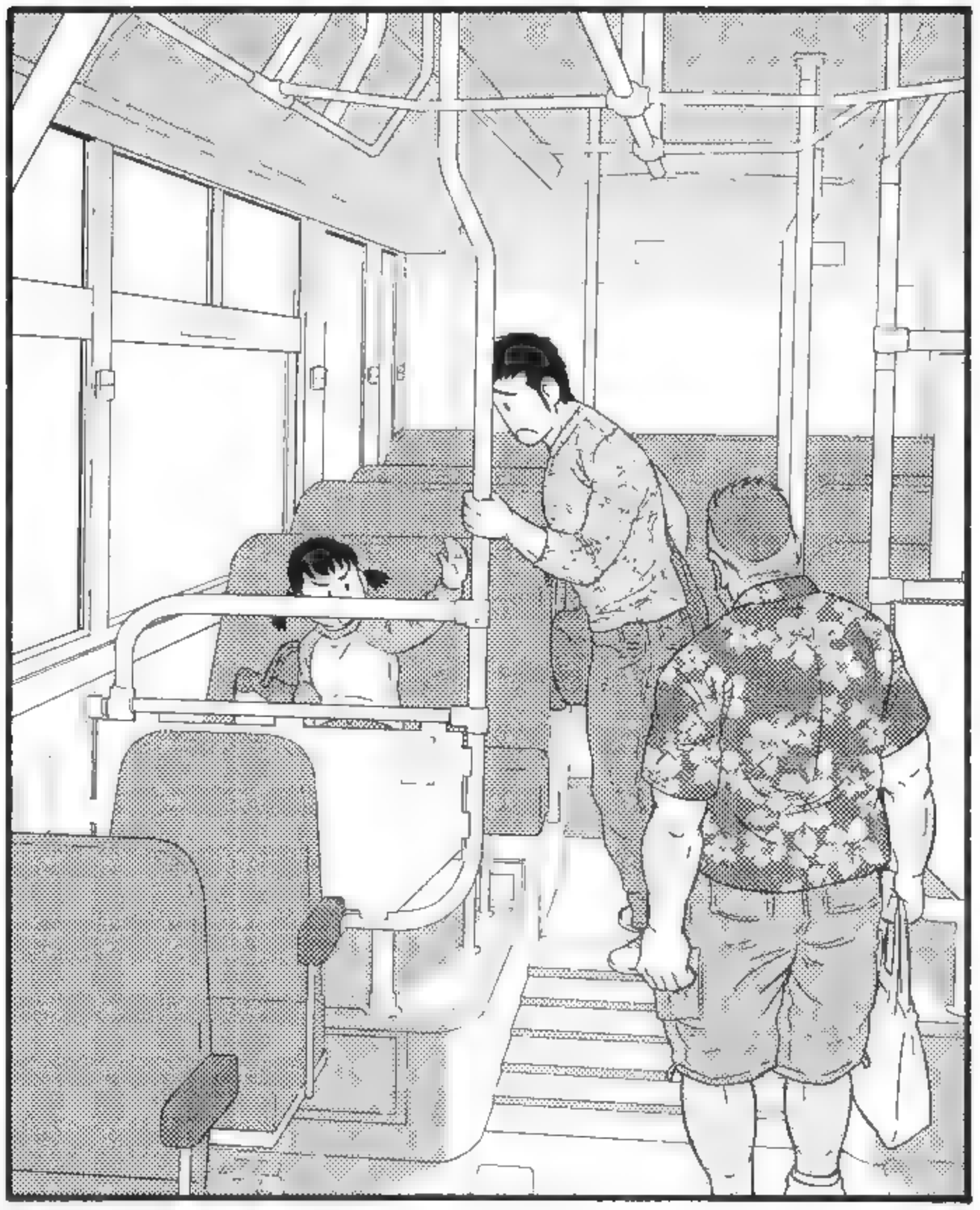
THE GYM?!

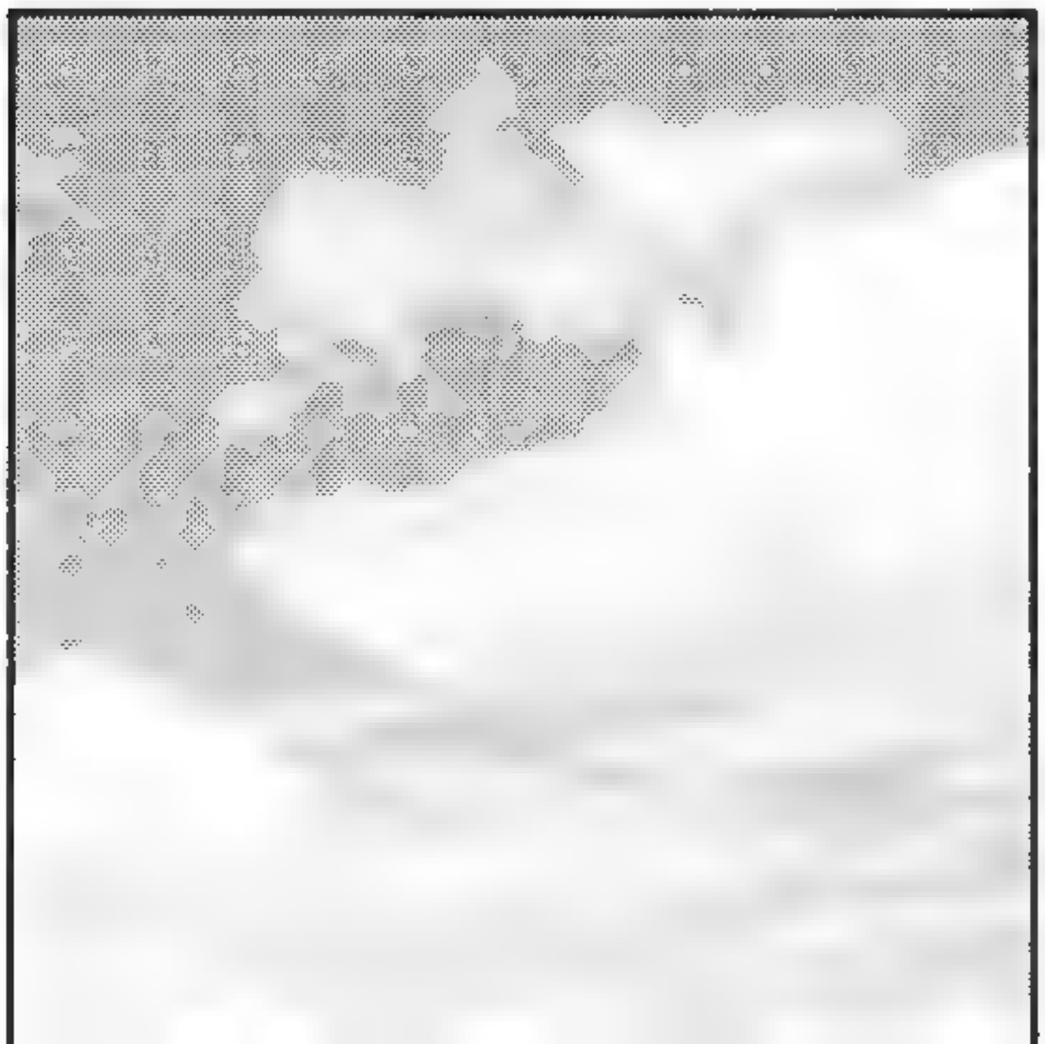
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN COME WITH ME!

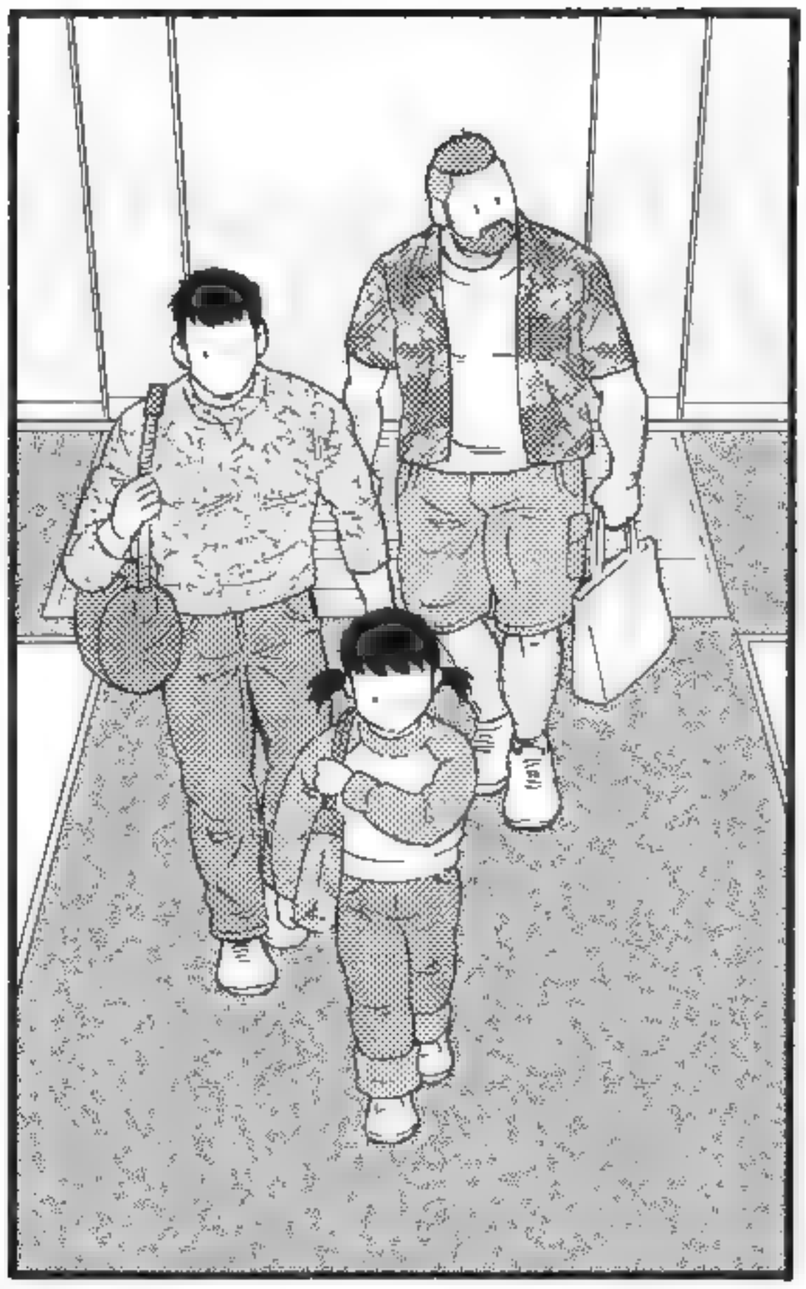


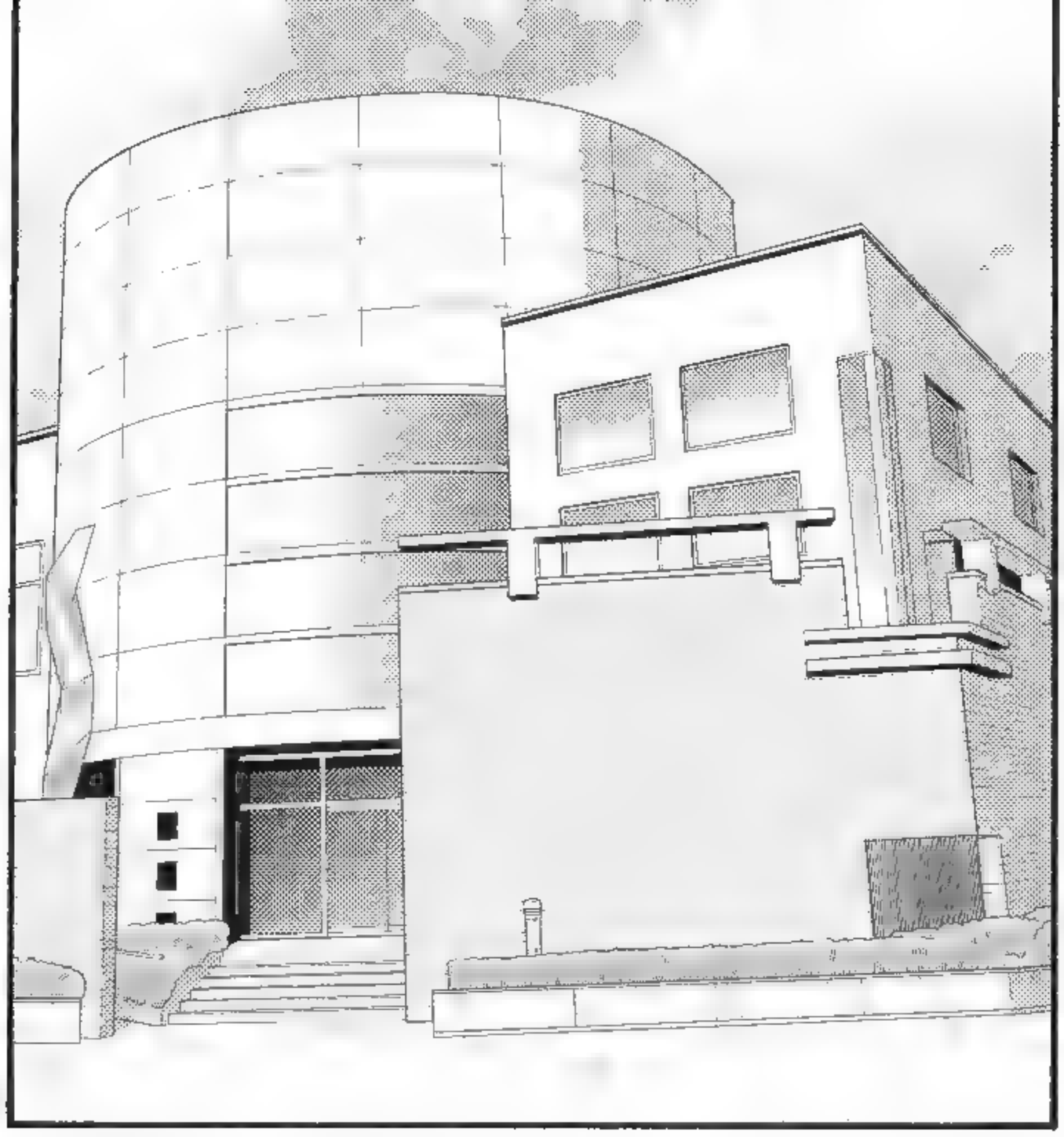
体育センター前
Fitness Center

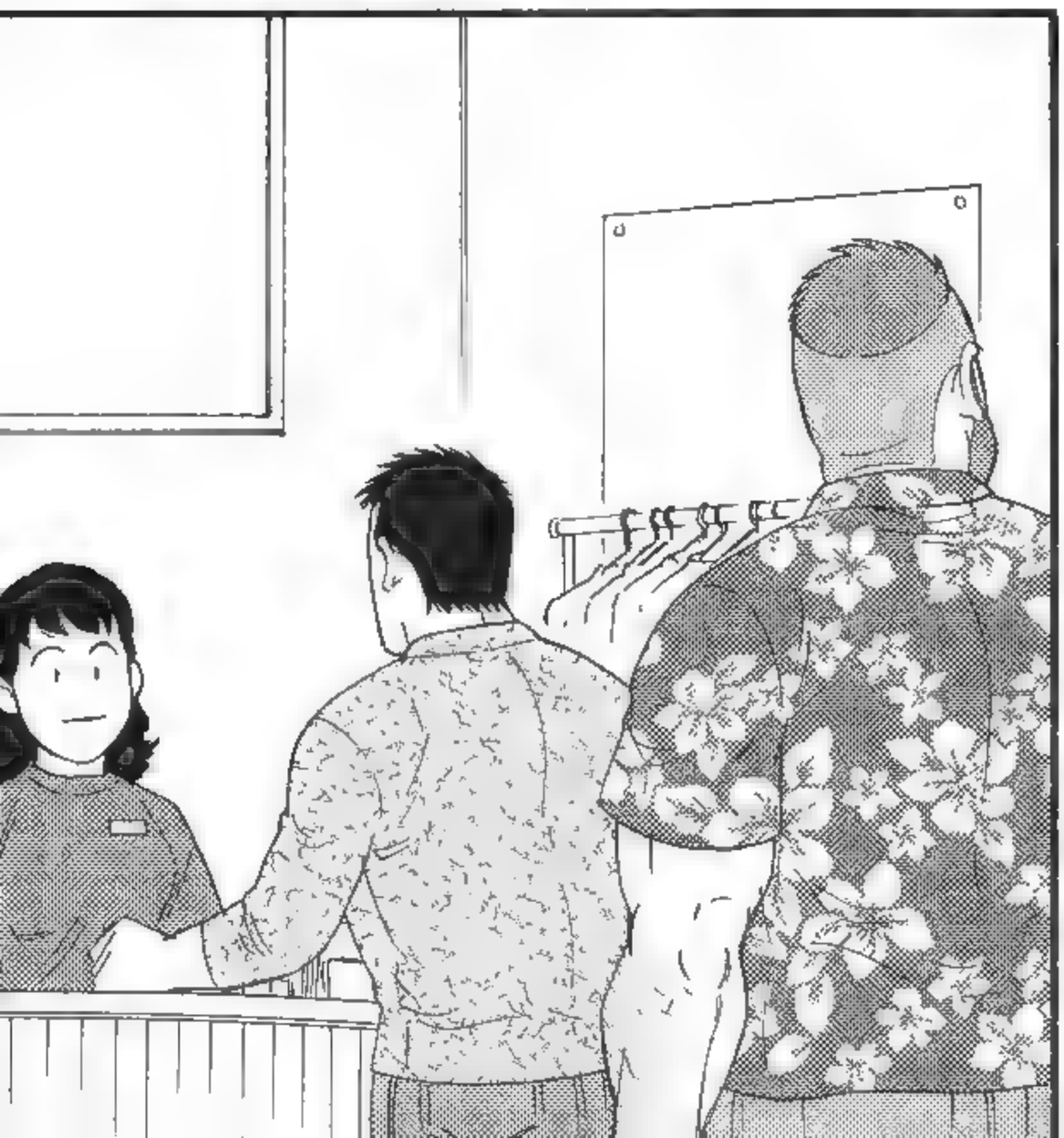
泉水一丁目

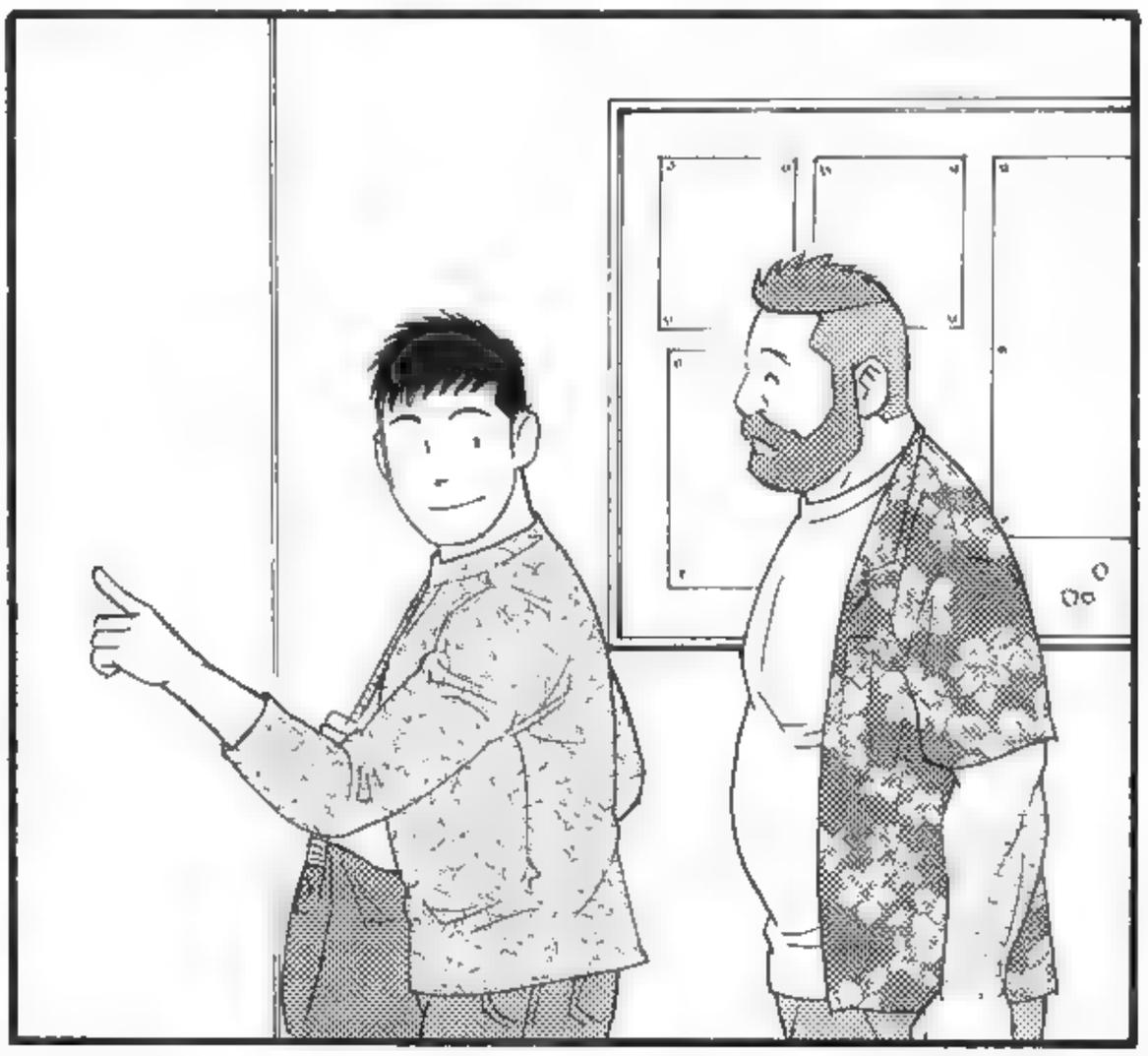












HEY, MIKE.

DID YOU GO TO THE GYM IN CANADA?

RIGHT.

OF COURSE...

YEAH!

WITH RYOJI?

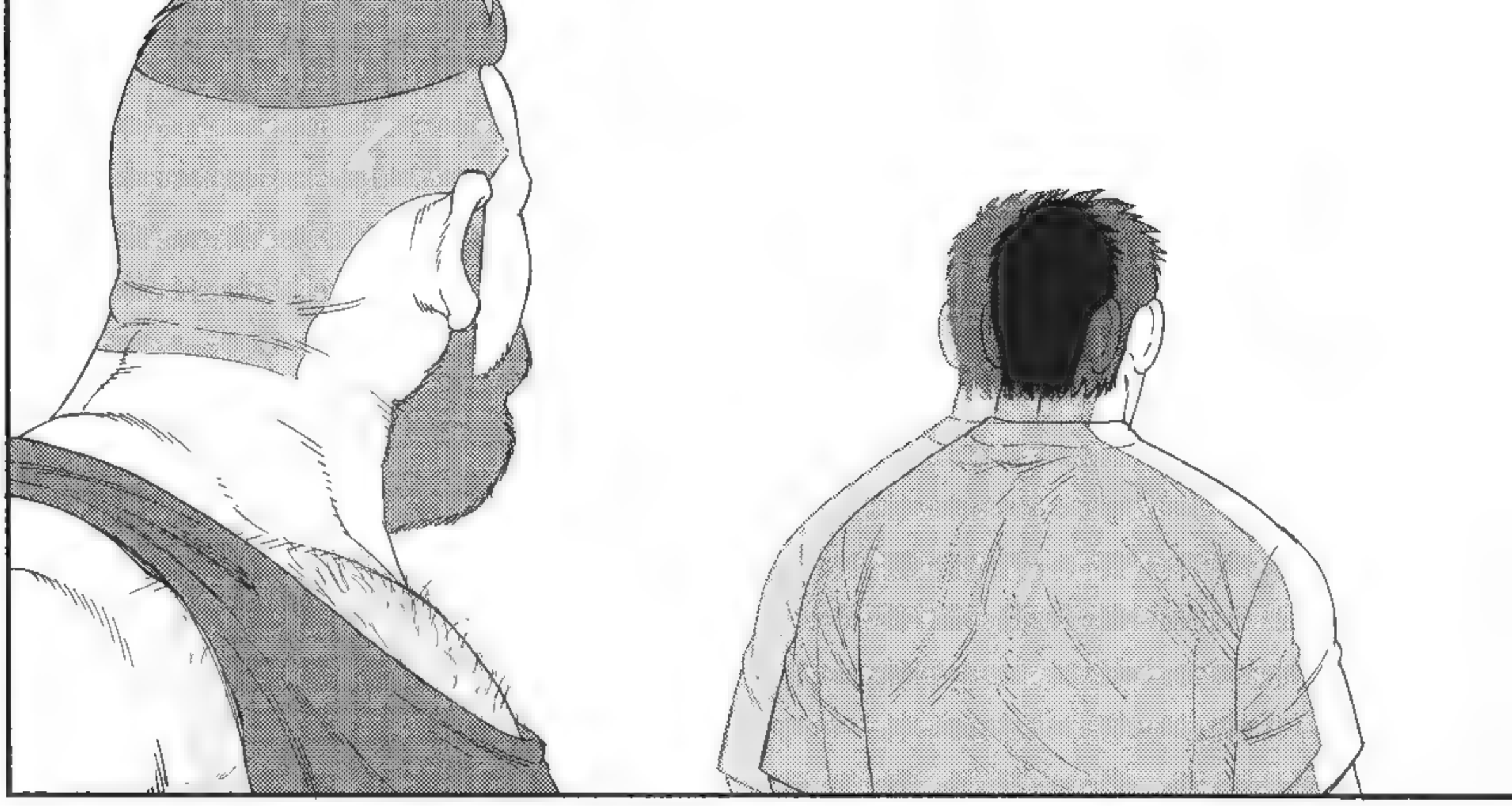
...

OH...

...

YES,

WE WOULD OFTEN GO TOGETHER.



SLAP

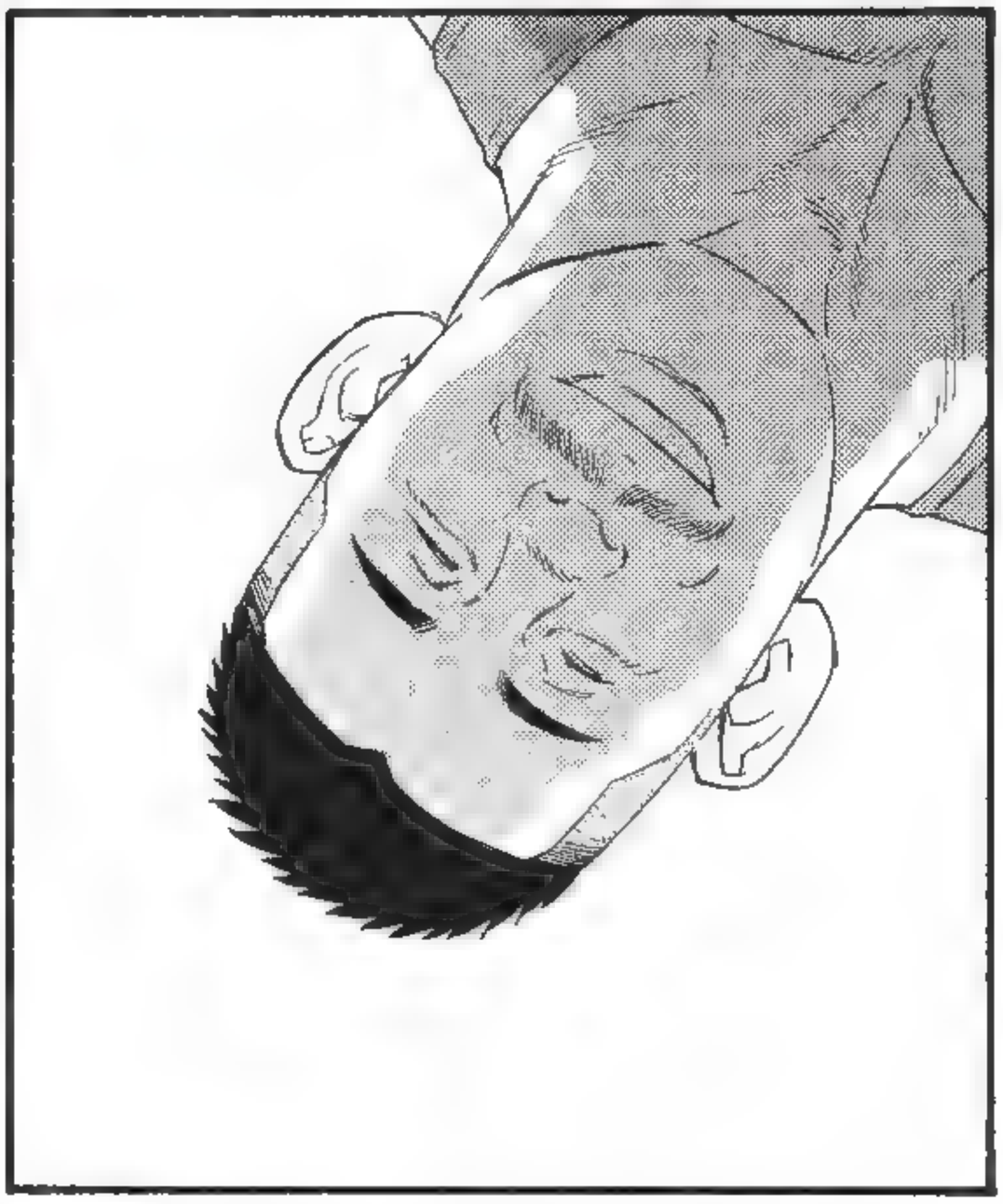
CLANK

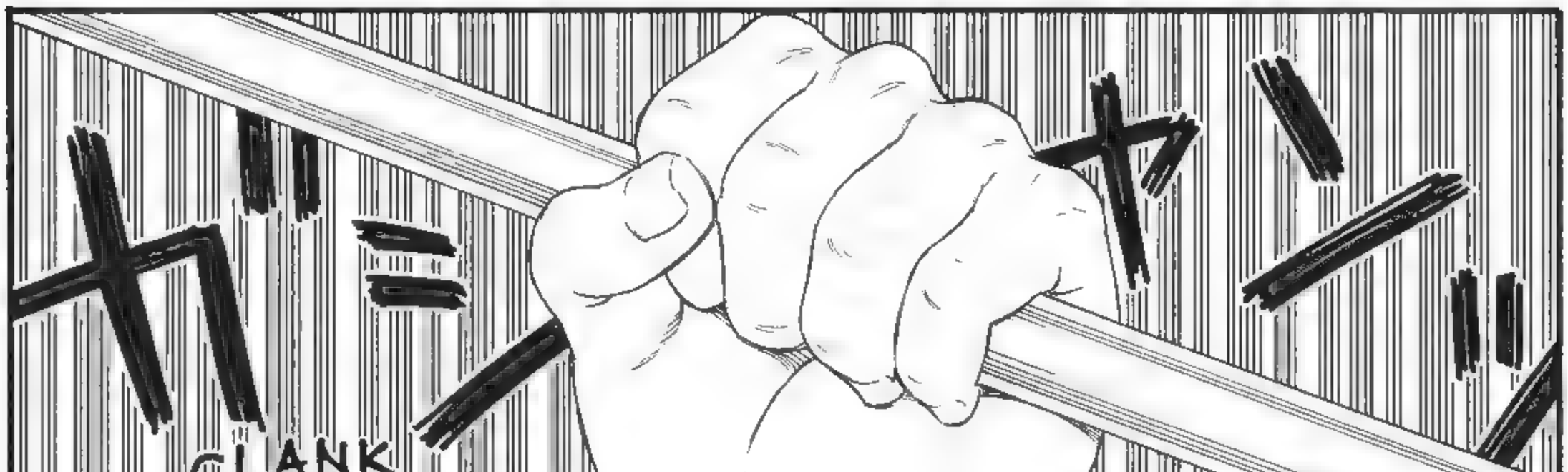
CLANK

CLANK

WHOA.

...




CLANK

PM 05:45

YES!

COOL?

MIKE, WE SHOULD GET GOING.

HOW WAS YOUR SWIM CLASS?

WELL...

DADDY! MIKE!

KANA, YOUR HAIR'S STILL SOAKING WET!

I CAN SWIM FIFTEEN METERS WITHOUT A PADDLEBOARD NOW!

THAT'S AMAZING, KANA-CHAN!

HERE. GIVE ME YOUR TOWEL.

わしゃ わしゃ わしゃ

WHOOSH

THAT'S BETTER.

MIKE?

HEY...

LET'S GET GOING, MIKE.

DID YOU MAKE IT PRETTY?!

I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN HELP.

IT'S ENGLISH.

YES.

THEY LOOK CONFUSED.

OH, *GAI*...

I MEAN, FOREIGN PEOPLE.

THEY CAN'T BECAUSE OF *TATOU.*

THEY WANT TO USE THE GYM,

BUT...

WHAT'D THEY SAY?

WHAT'S WRONG?

YES.

OH.

RIGHT.

*IREZUMI.* TATTOOS.

WHAT'S A *TATOU?*

*TATOU?*

I SEE.

WHY IS IT BAD FOR HIM TO HAVE A PATTERN ON HIS ARM?

IRE-ZUMI?

SEE THAT PATTERN ON THE MAN'S ARM?

THAT'S A *TATOU*.

THAT'S...

I KNOW WHY.

HMM...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

IN JAPAN, TATTOOS MEAN OUTLAWS, *YAKUZA*.

RYOJI TOLD ME.

THEY'RE BAD GUYS?

ARE THEY SCARY PEOPLE?

...

SCARY PEOPLE?

NOT BAD GUYS. MORE LIKE...

BUT, THEY HAVE TATTOOS, SO...

IN JAPAN THERE ARE PLACES THEY CAN'T GO.

...

HMM...

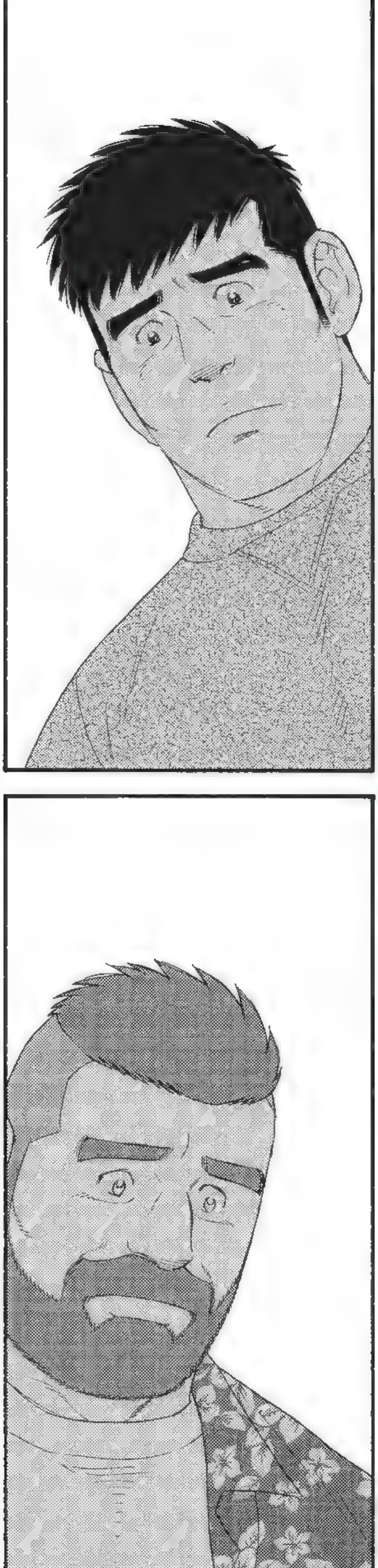
I DO NOT THINK SO.

...

YEAH, LIKE THE BATHS, OR A POOL, I GUESS.

MMM...

IS THAT TRUE?



I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.

MIKE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

I WANT *YAKINIKU!*

WHAT SAY WE EAT OUT TONIGHT?

YAY!!

YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.

IS THAT REALLY OK WITH YOU?

I LIKE *YAKINIKU!*

I DIDN'T ASK YOU, I ASKED MIKE!

*YAKINIKU!* *YAKINIKU!*

I WANT *YAKINIKU!*

KANA-CHAN, WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE BESIDES CURRY AND STEAK?

OOH, SO MANY THINGS!

GOSH, THERE'S SO MANY THINGS.

ALSO...

I LIKE EVERYTHING DAD MAKES.

*YAKINIKU!* *YAKINIKU!*

*YAKINIKU*, IT IS!

HAMBURGERS, CROQUETTES, GRATINS, SPAGHETTI, *SUKIYAKI*, MEAT AND POTATOES, *KOYA TOFU*...

...

WHAT DO YOU LIKE, MIKE?

I, TOO...

LIKE A LOT OF THINGS.

JUST LIKE YOU.

YES!

JUST LIKE ME!

I LIKED EVERYTHING

RYOJI MADE.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# *HOT CHOCOLATE*

ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
GON
ゴ
ゴ
GON

BEEP BEEP BEEP

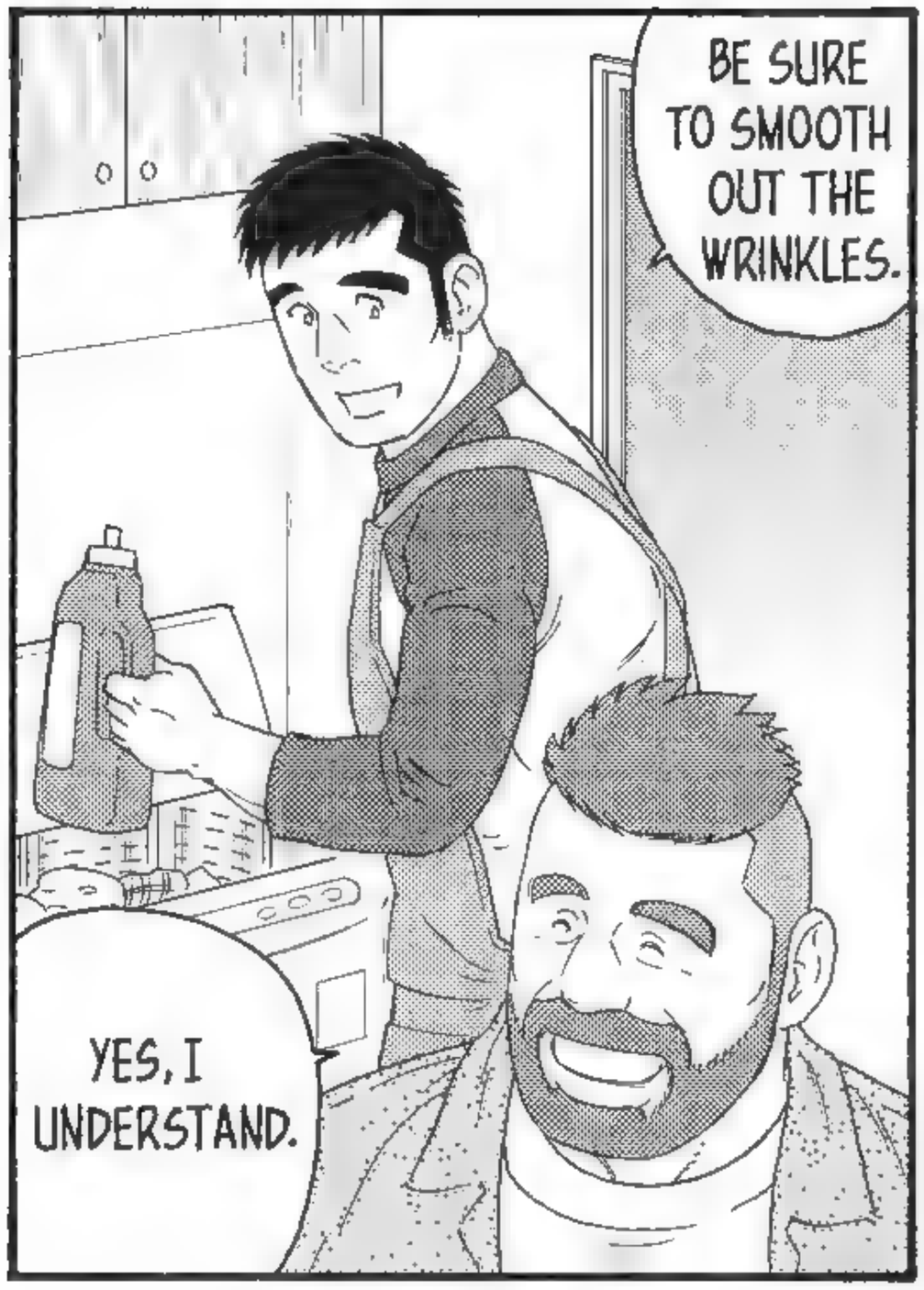
カタン
KLANG

CAN I HELP YOU WITH THAT, YAICHI?

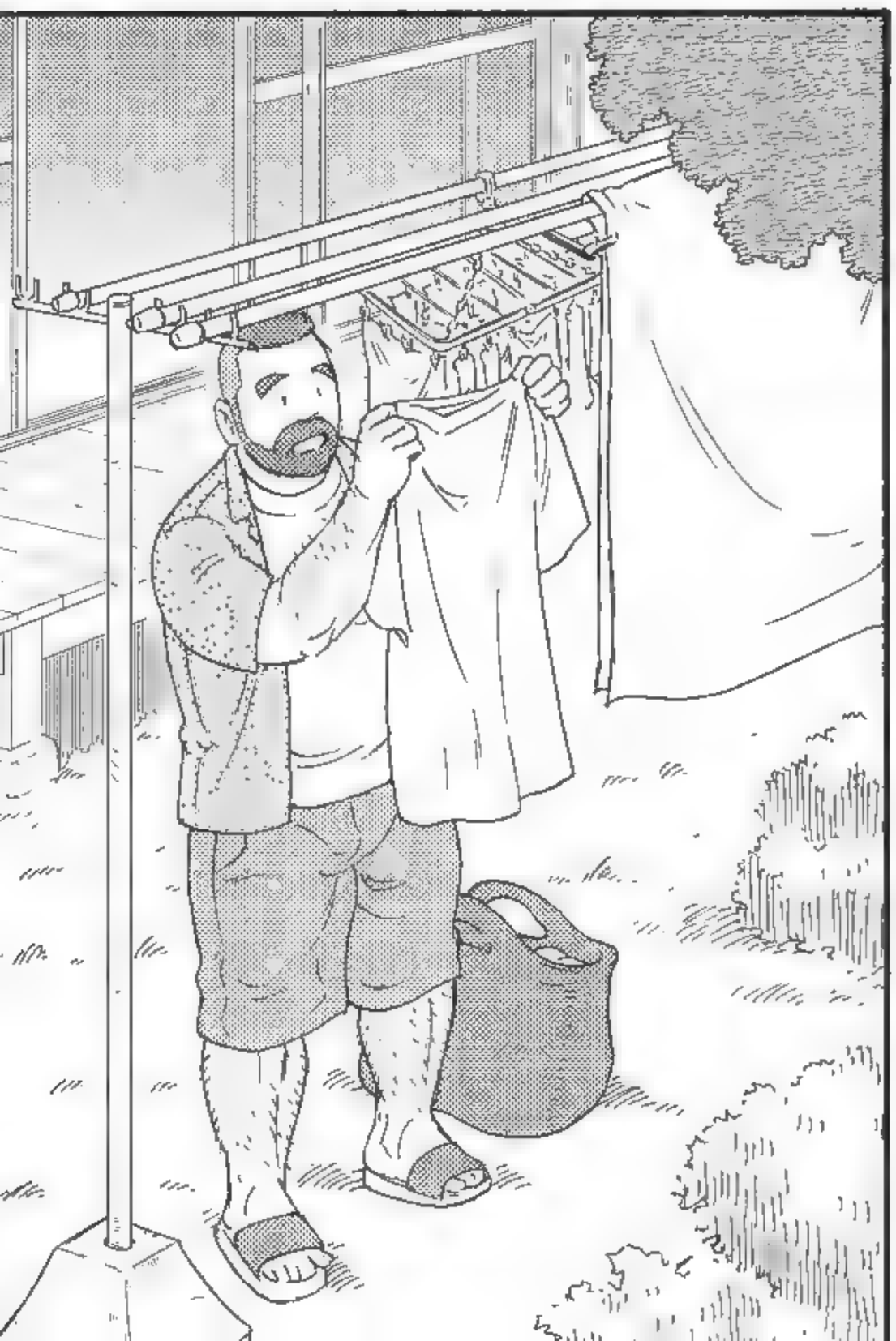
OH, SURE, THANKS.

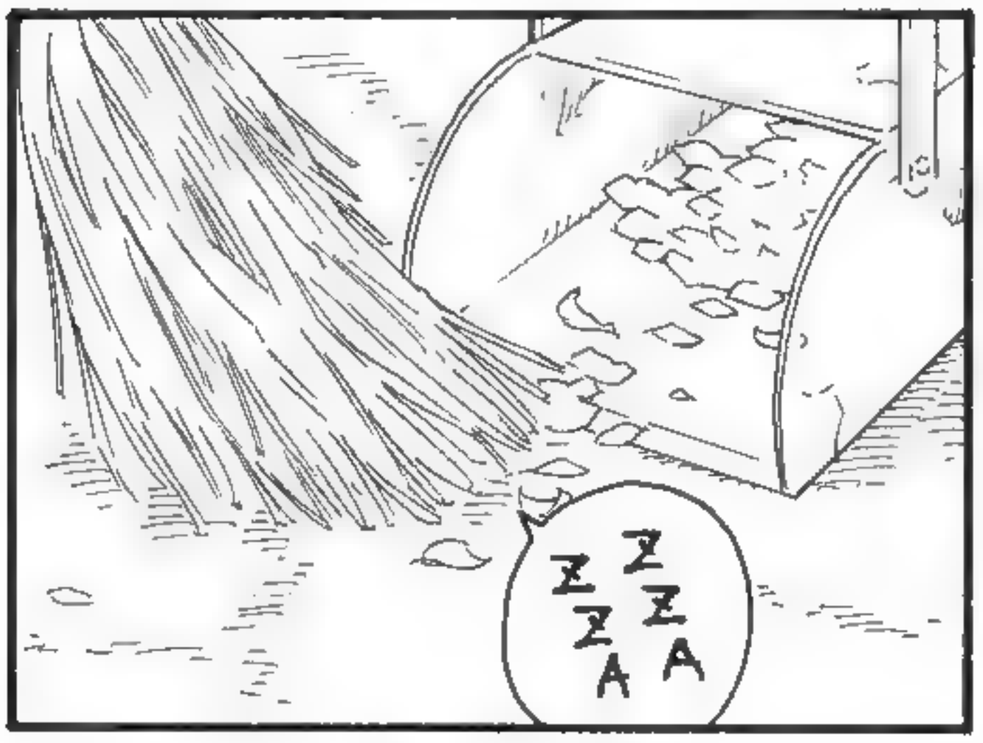
BEEP BEEP BEEP

PAT 110 PAT 110 PAT 110


BE SURE TO SMOOTH OUT THE WRINKLES.
YES, I UNDERSTAND.

COULD YOU HANG THESE OUT TO DRY OUTSIDE?
OK!




ZZZ
ZZA
A

FFFF
TOK
TOK

WAIT...

JUST NOW,

THERE WAS A BOY LOOKING OVER HERE.

THEN HE JUST RAN OFF.

MUST BE IN JUNIOR HIGH.

HEY, YOU!

YOU WERE HERE BEFORE.

YOU...

I...

I'M...

I AM TOMOYA OGAWA'S OLDER BROTHER,

KAZUYA.

WHAT DID YOU NEED?

...

UM... SO...

YOU'RE TOMO'S BROTHER, BUT...

IS TOMO OK?

OGAWA...

OH YEAH.

YES... I MEAN NO, WELL...

FOR THAT MATTER, YOU SHOULD BE, TOO!

AND KANA'S AT SCHOOL.

TOMO'S NOT HERE,

MI—

I'M LOOKING FOR MIKE-SAN!

I'M DONE HANGING THE LAUNDRY, YAICHI-SAN!

WINK

?

UM...

UH...

ヤアイ ZOOM

HE'S THE BROTHER OF KANA'S FRIEND.

THIS KID...

HE APPARENTLY WANTED TO SEE YOU.

ME?

...

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MMM, WELL...

...

NO.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

KONNICHIWA!

SHOCK

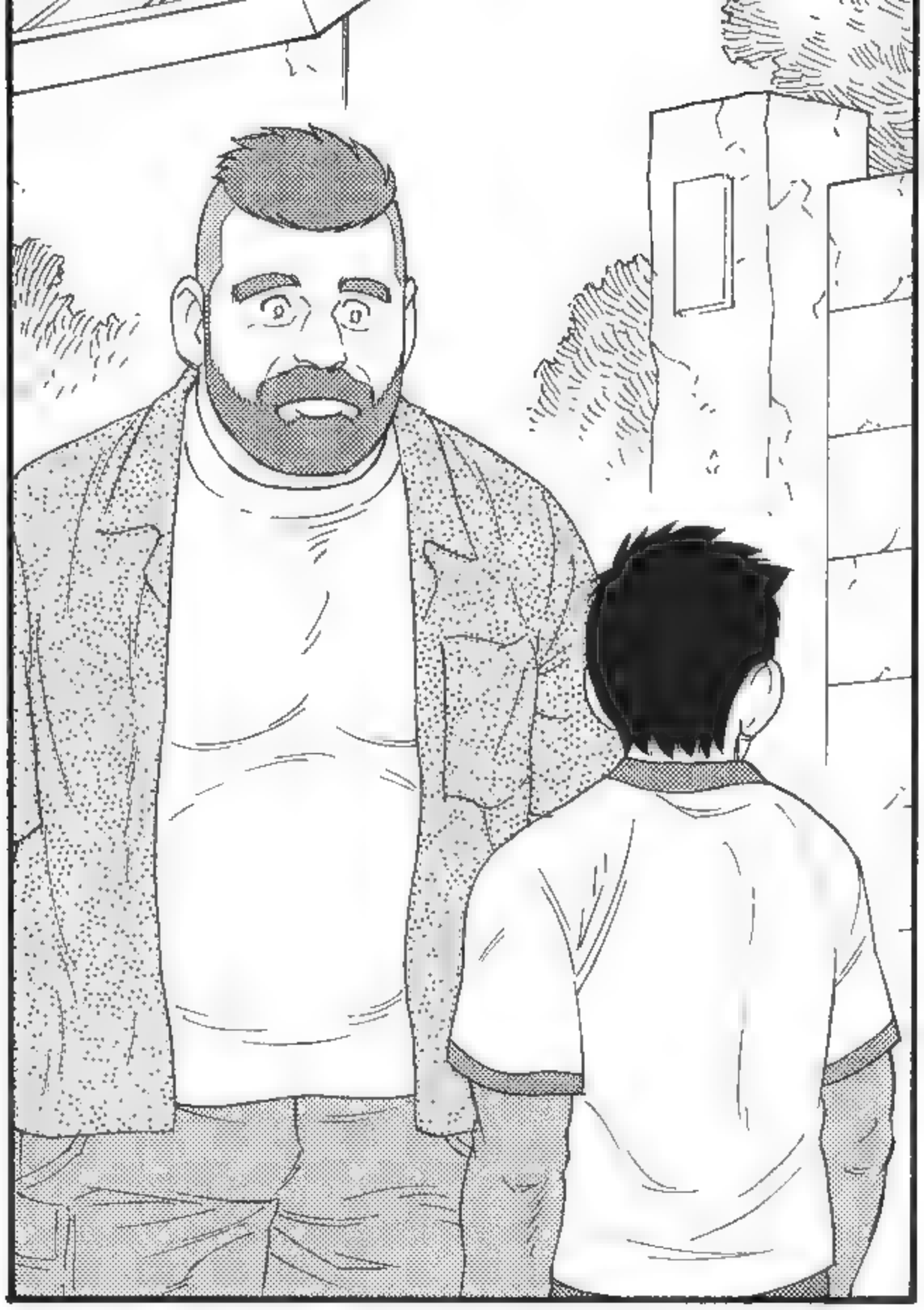
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO ASK?

I AM...

I...

I'M...!

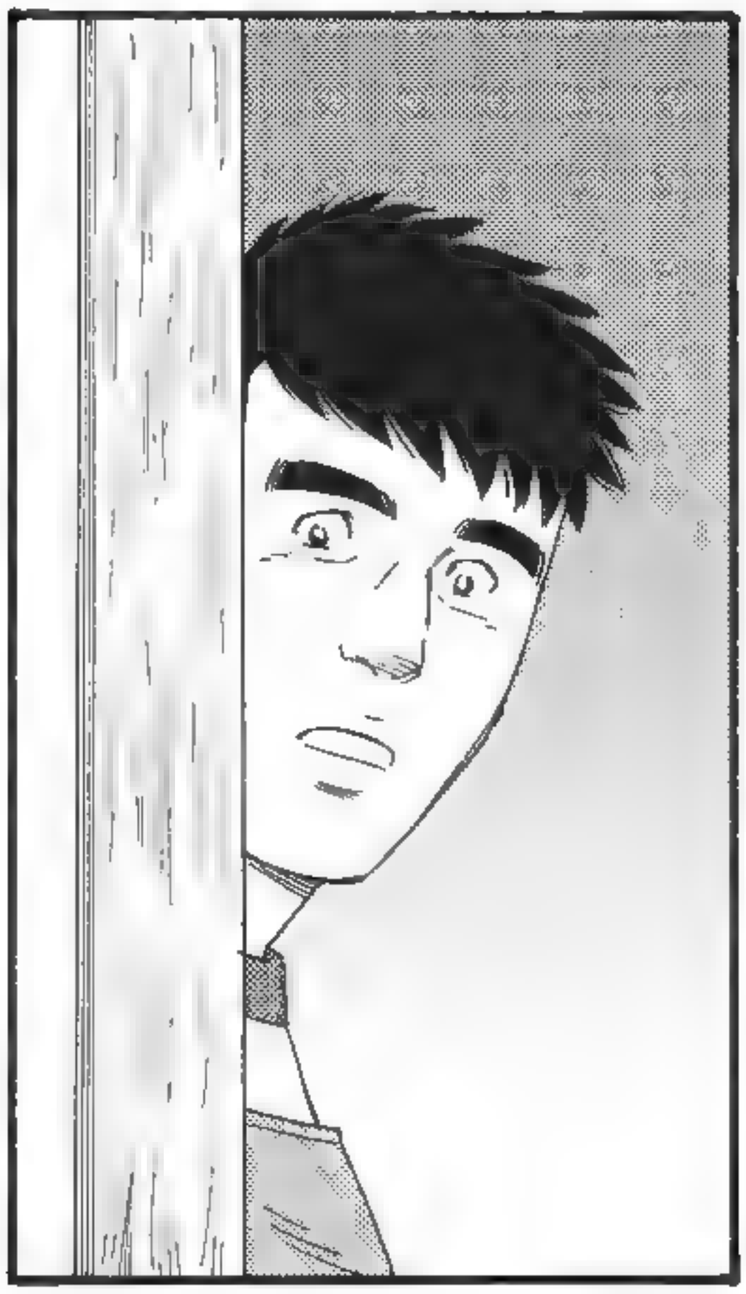
...

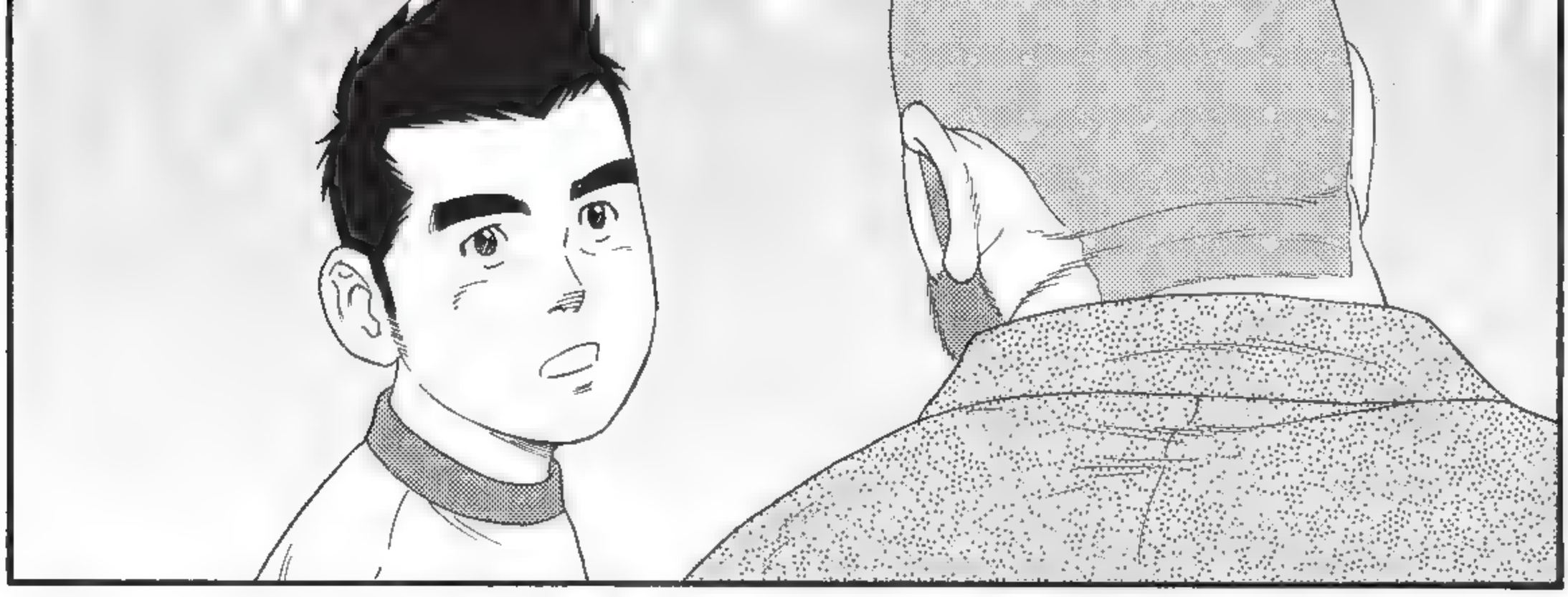


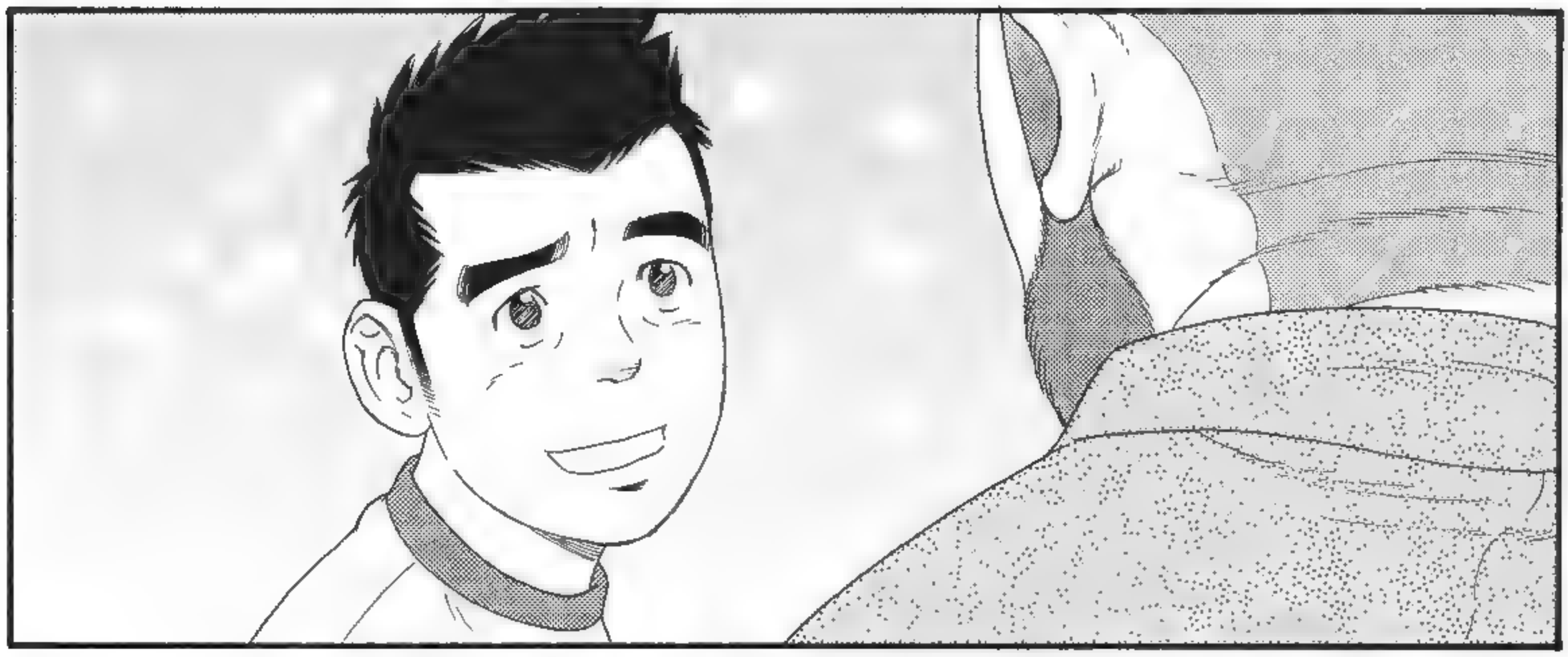
OH, WELL SURE.
CAN WE BORROW YOUR YARD?
YAICHI-SAN...

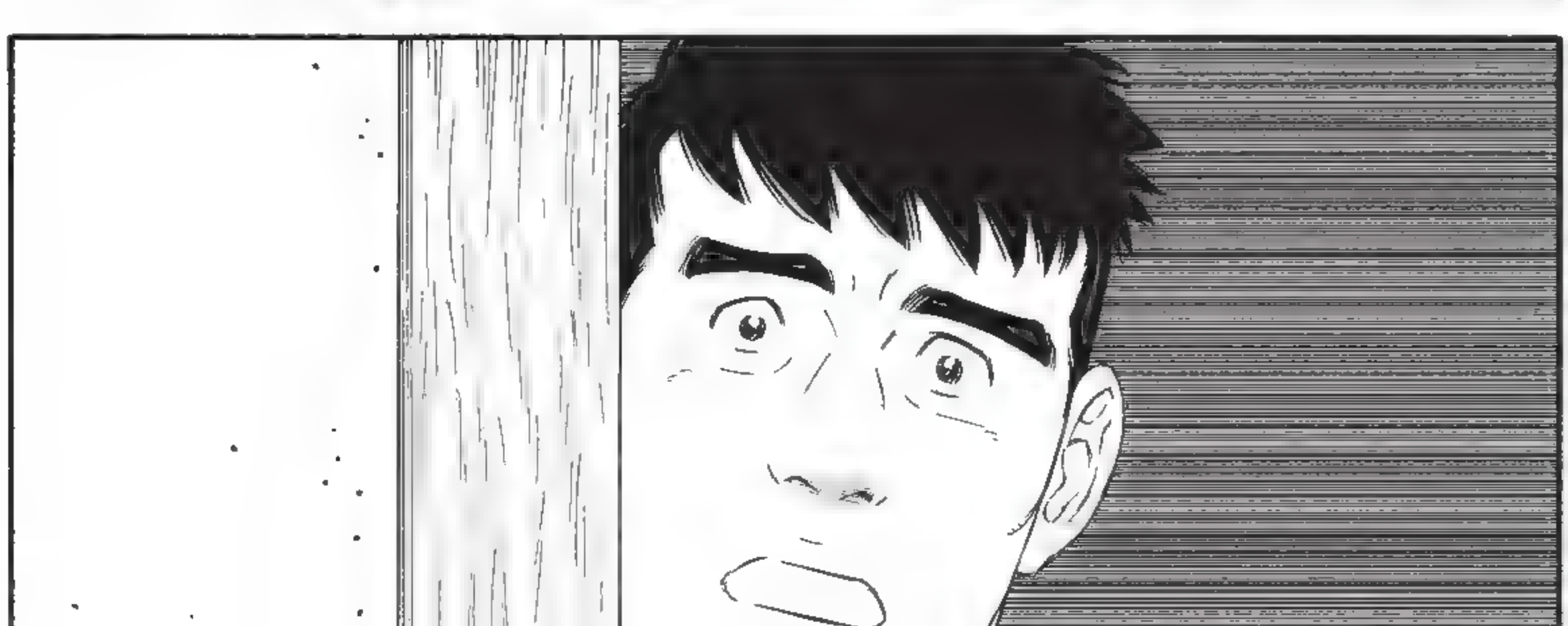
...
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME, DON'T YOU.

DO YOU WANT TO COME INSIDE?









DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK?

YAICHI-SAN...

WHAT'S WRONG?

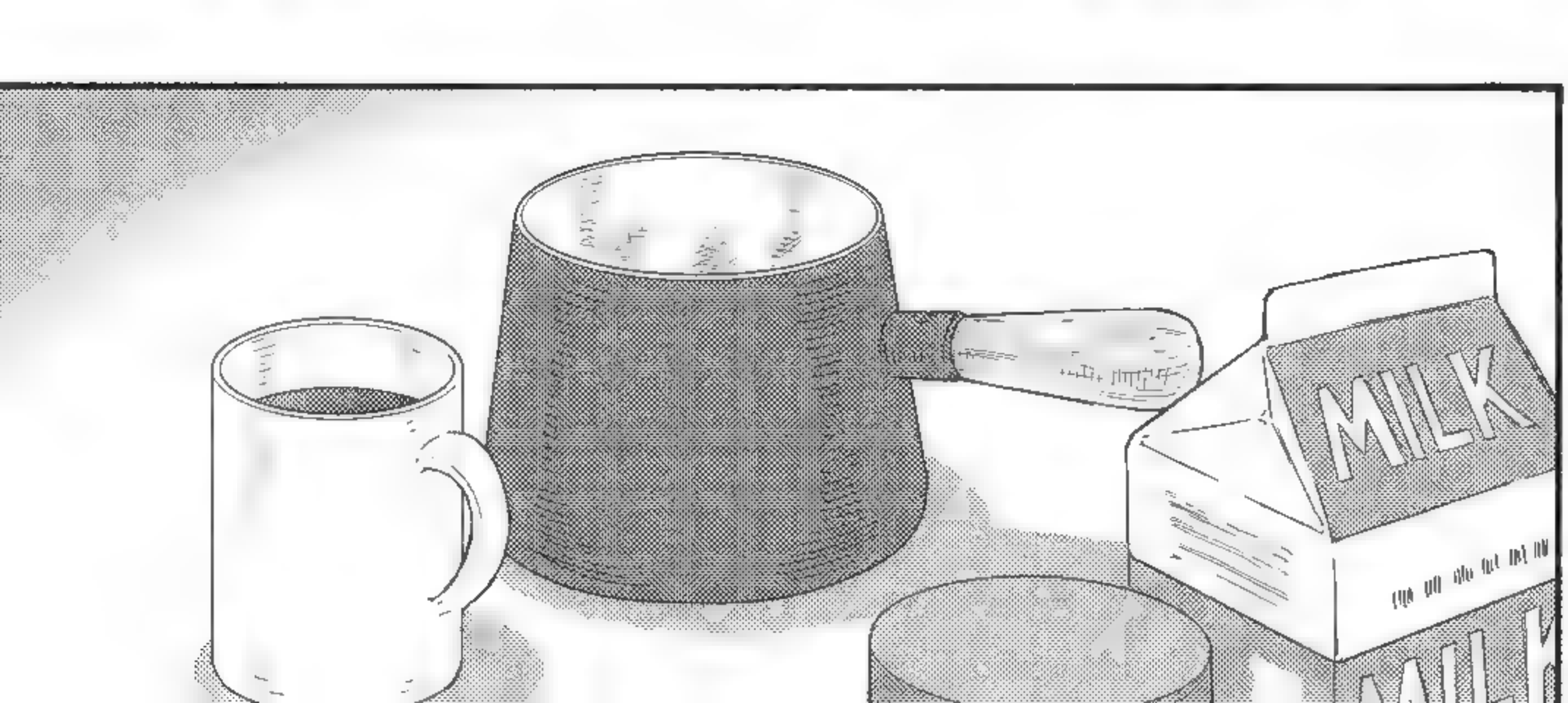
HOT CHOCOLATE OR SOME-THING?

UM, YEAH! I HAVE COCOA.

JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.

SURE.

IF YOU DON'T MIND.



BETTER?

...

SSIP

SORRY.

YES, SIR.

BUT...

WHAT HAPPENED?

NOTHING TO BE SORRY FOR!

I WAS JUST SURPRISED.

...

OK.

CAN I TELL HIM?

IS JUST LIKE ME.

THIS BOY,

KAZUYA...

OH,

YOU MEAN...

I'M GAY.

ME.

AT SCHOOL...

AND I REALIZED THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE.

ALL I THINK ABOUT ARE BOYS...

WHEN MY FRIENDS TALK ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE CELEBRITIES,

OR ABOUT THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS...

I KNEW ABOUT IT,

BUT...

I'D HEARD THINGS:

HOMO, GAY...

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE WHO WAS...

NOBODY I KNEW, ANYWAY.

WHEN I LOOKED ONLINE,

I REALIZED THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE ME.

AND I FELT BETTER...

BUT SOME PEOPLE WROTE NASTY THINGS,

I GOT A LITTLE SCARED,

AND I REALIZED I SHOULD PROBABLY HIDE THIS.

SO I DELETED MY HISTORY.

TO MY FRIENDS...

I MADE UP SOMETHING ABOUT GIRLS I THOUGHT WERE CUTE,

BUT...

I NEEDED TO TALK TO SOMEONE.

BUT THERE WAS NO ONE TO TALK TO.

IT JUST GOT HARDER...

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

MY BROTHER, TOLD ME ABOUT KANA'S SITUATION.

THAT'S WHEN TOMO...

AND THAT HE'S MARRIED TO ANOTHER MAN.

THAT KANA HAD AN UNCLE FROM CANADA STAYING AT HER HOUSE...

I PRETENDED NOT TO CARE.

I GOT SO EXCITED I ALMOST JUMPED OUT OF MY SEAT.

BUT I DIDN'T.

WHEN I HEARD...

A FEW TIMES TO SEE IF YOU WERE REAL.

I CAME OVER HERE...

MEET YOU, MIKE-SAN.

WHEN REALLY, I WANTED TO MEET THAT PERSON.

BUT I SEE NOW... WHAT WAS GOING ON.

STOP APOLOGIZING!

I'M SORRY!

...

IT'S ALRIGHT.

I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT MYSELF THIS WHOLE TIME.

I FEEL LIKE...

TELLING SOMEONE ELSE.

MEETING ANOTHER GAY PERSON.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME.

I WAS SO NERVOUS ABOUT THIS.

AND...

SCARED.

AND REALLY...

IT'S ALRIGHT.

YOU CAN STOP CRYING.

LET'S BE FRIENDS, YES?

YES!

# CHAPTER FOURTEEN

# *RAMEN*

UM...

WITH KANA-CHAN, CAN WE...

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE?

DON'T BE A STRANGER.

NO, THAT'S OK. THANK YOU FOR THE COCOA.

I KNOW.

WE WON'T TELL HER UNLESS YOU WANT US TO.

YES, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!

THANK YOU, MIKE-SAN, FOR TODAY.

THANK YOU.

UNDER-STOOD?

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SKIP SCHOOL AGAIN.

HOWEVER!

PLEASE VISIT ME IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK AGAIN!

BUT I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

I'LL GET BACK IN TIME FOR MY AFTERNOON CLASSES TODAY!

I WAS SCARED OF BEING CAUGHT BY FRIENDS.

I'M SORRY.

WELL, GOOD!

THANKS SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING.

SHUT

FOR A JUNIOR HIGH KID.

FOR SO LONG.

HE WAS SO STRESSED...

I THINK HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT A LOT.

YES.

UNABLE TO TELL HIS MOM OR DAD

A LOT OF HIS WORRIES.

MIKE?

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE?

WANNA GRAB LUNCH?

THERE'S THIS PLACE MY BROTHER AND I USED TO GO TO ALL THE TIME.

WANT TO GO THERE?

YES, I LOVE RAMEN!

HAVE YOU HAD RAMEN BEFORE?

YES, I DO!

IT'S JUST *SHOYU RAMEN* WITH *CHASHU* AND *MENMA*.

OH, AND AN EGG.

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, THOUGH. IT'S REALLY UNREMARKABLE.

WE USED TO GO THERE AFTER SCHOOL A LOT.

BUT IT'S CHEAP!

NOT, LIKE, DELICIOUS...

ALTHOUGH...

Sale

OPEN

GUESS WE'LL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!

OH WELL.

I GUESS THEY CLOSED.

YEAH.

THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A RAMEN PLACE.

ALSO WORRY ABOUT IT?

DID YOU...

ABOUT EARLIER.

KAZUYA COMING OUT.

I GUESS YOU COULDN'T TELL YOUR PARENTS EITHER?

WHEN I WAS A CHILD I HAD MANY WORRIES.

YES.

COMING OUT WAS STILL...

STILL REQUIRED COURAGE.

...

MY MOM AND DAD ARE LIBERAL, BUT...

I WONDERED HOW THEY WOULD REACT.

IF THEY'D HATE ME.

I THOUGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING.

...

WHEN WAS THAT?

JUST LIKE KAZUYA,

I WAS SCARED... ALWAYS ABOUT TO CRY.

I GUESS RYOJI MUST HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY.

...

AROUND THE SAME AGE.

RYOJI ALSO TOLD ME...

I WAS FIFTEEN.

HE NEVER LET ON HOW WORRIED HE WAS.

HE TOLD ME SO NONCHALANTLY...

BUT HE MUSTERED SO MUCH COURAGE JUST TO TELL ME.

OH...

I THINK SO.

...

ACCEPTED...

AND SO DID YOU!

BUT MY MOM AND DAD ACCEPTED ME.

SO IT WAS ALL OK.

WHAT?

ACTUALLY, MANY PEOPLE DON'T ACCEPT IT.

...

I...

I DUNNO...

MANY CHILDREN

HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE HOME.

BEEN BULLIED AT SCHOOL.

THIS IS COMMON.

I WONDER.

BUT...

I MEAN, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT.

HUH? NO...

ARE THERE SUCH THINGS IN JAPAN?

IT WOULD BE NICE...

IF THAT WERE INDEED THE TRUTH.

RYOJI SAID THE SAME THING.

HE SAID HE HADN'T HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

ARE YOU WORRIED?

OF COURSE!

KAZUYA IS OK.

I HOPE...

SECRET...

TO HIM IT IS STILL A SECRET.

IT'S HIS FIRST COMING OUT, RIGHT?

I FEEL SOME RESPONSIBILITY, BEING THE FIRST ONE TO HEAR HIS SECRET.

IT IS NOT SOMETHING I HIDE.

BEING GAY IS NOT A SECRET FOR ME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?

TELLING SOMEONE A SECRET

AND FEELING NO NEED TO KEEP IT A SECRET

ARE CERTAINLY DIFFERENT.

OH... I SEE.

THAT MAKES SENSE.

IT ISN'T SOMETHING HE WANTS PEOPLE TO KNOW.

BUT FOR KAZUYA IT IS.

I THINK SO.

STILL HAS A LOT OF ANXIETY, I GUESS.

SO KAZUYA...

MMM.

SOMETHING HE'LL KEEP FROM THEM.

IT'S SOMETHING HE CAN'T DISCUSS WITH HIS MOM AND DAD.

IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN TELLING YOUR PARENTS.

TELLING A COMPLETE STRANGER WHO HAPPENS TO KNOW A GAY PERSON...

UH, MIKE?

本日限定!! くまさんドーナツ

Today Only! Donut Bears!

KANA LOVES THEM, TOO.

YES!

YOU LIKE DONUTS?

YOU HAVE TO LET ME PAY ONCE IN A WHILE!

AW...

I WILL PAY FOR THIS!

LET'S GET SOME FOR THE HOUSE.

SO CUTE!!

WAA!!

COFFEE FOR MIKE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

MIKE BOUGHT THEM!

THANK YOU, MIKE!

AWWW, BUT I CAN'T EAT IT. IT'S TOO CUTE!

COCOA FOR KANA.

THANK YOU, DADDY.

HUH, MIKE?!

NOM NOM

AWW

GULP

IT'S A DONUT! OF COURSE HE'S GOING TO EAT IT!

*YOU'RE SO CRUEL, MIKE!*

AWW!

CHOMP

DAD'S GOING TO EAT ONE, TOO.

LOOK.

...

EH, MIKE?

IT'S DELICIOUS.

THAT'S GOOD!

I WANT TO EAT IT!

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT IT, MAYBE DAD WILL EAT IT FOR YOU.

NO!

CHOMP

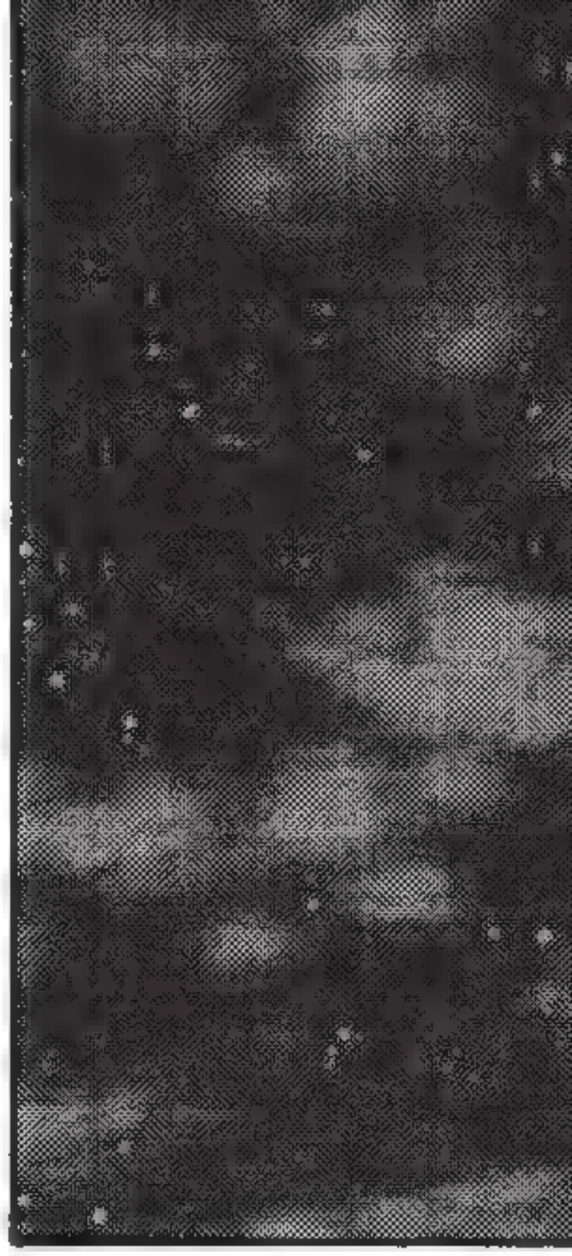
GRRRIN

...

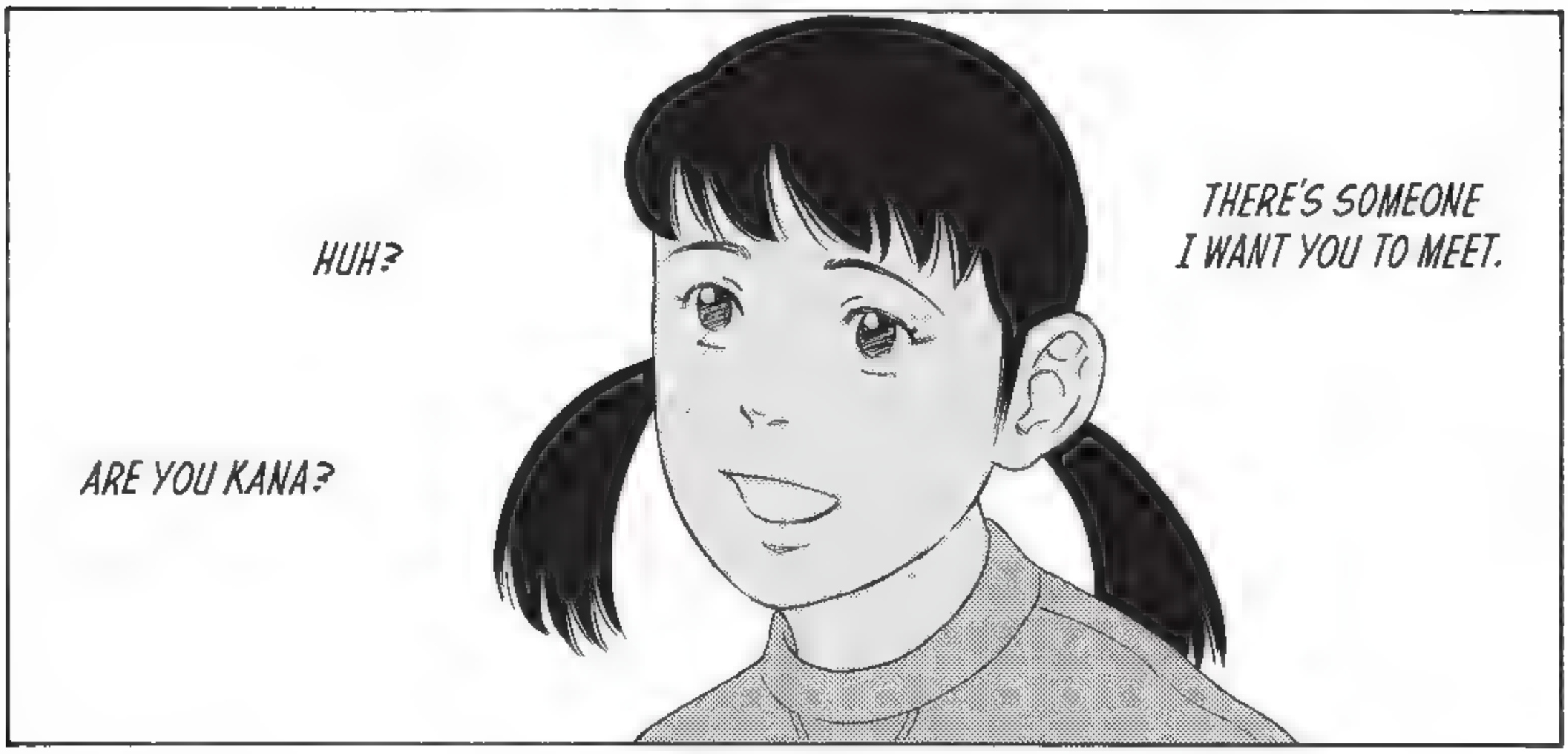
YES, IT'S YUMMY!

DO YOU LIKE IT, MIKE?

IT'S SWEET!



WHAT IS IT?
SPEAK UP!
DADDY!
HEY DAD!


HUH?
ARE YOU KANA?
THERE'S SOMEONE
I WANT YOU TO MEET.

WHEN DID YOU GET SO BIG?

OVER HERE!

COME OVER!

TO WHO?

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.

MY GIRLFRIEND!

WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!

WAIT...

WHAT?!

KANA?

# PENCILS

こあ…
このやろう…

何だ！

ぐぐぐ

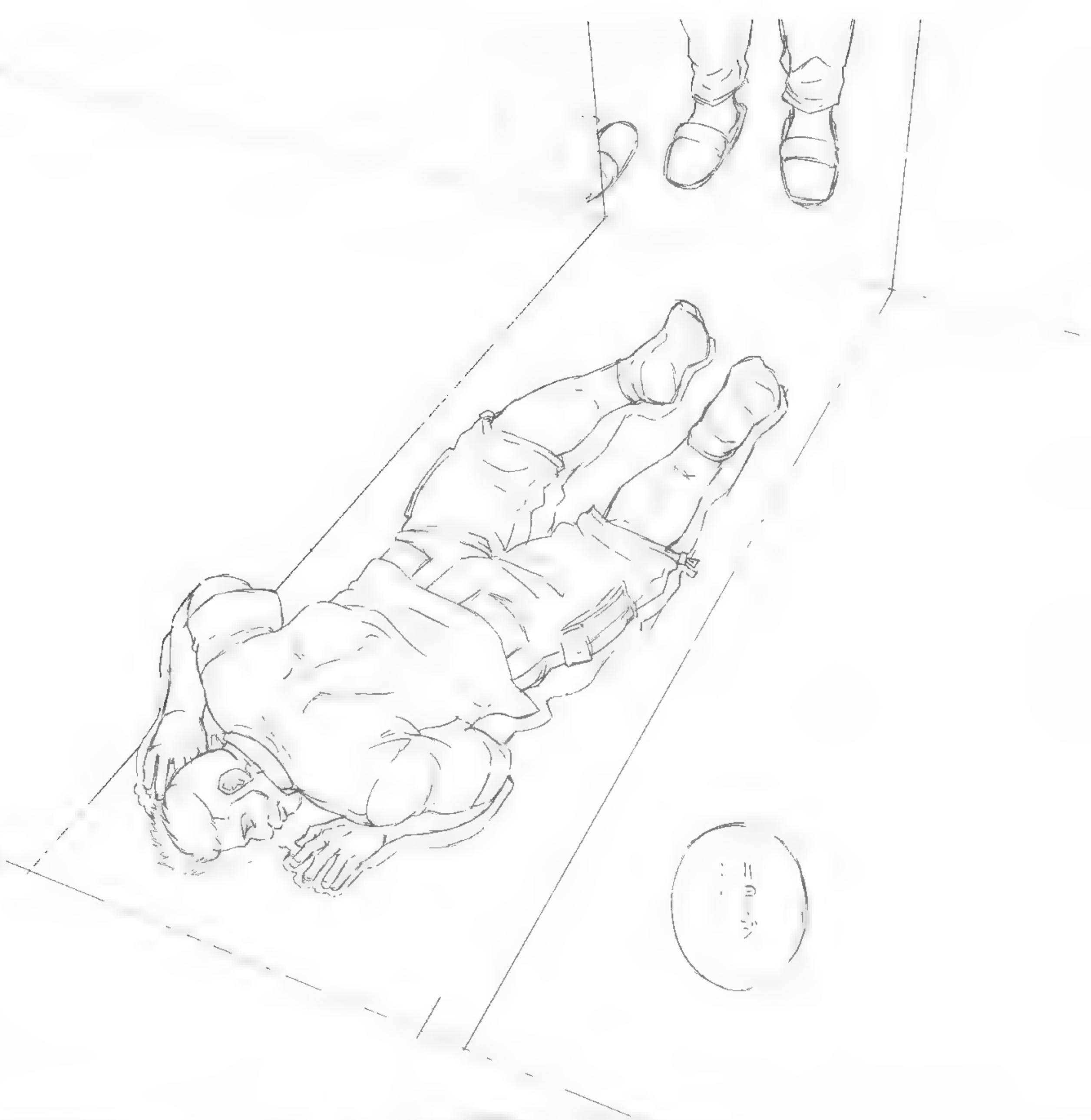
ぐぐぐ

…おい
ちょっと
重いん
だが…

はっ

ぱっ

オオッ
ソーリー
ソーリー！

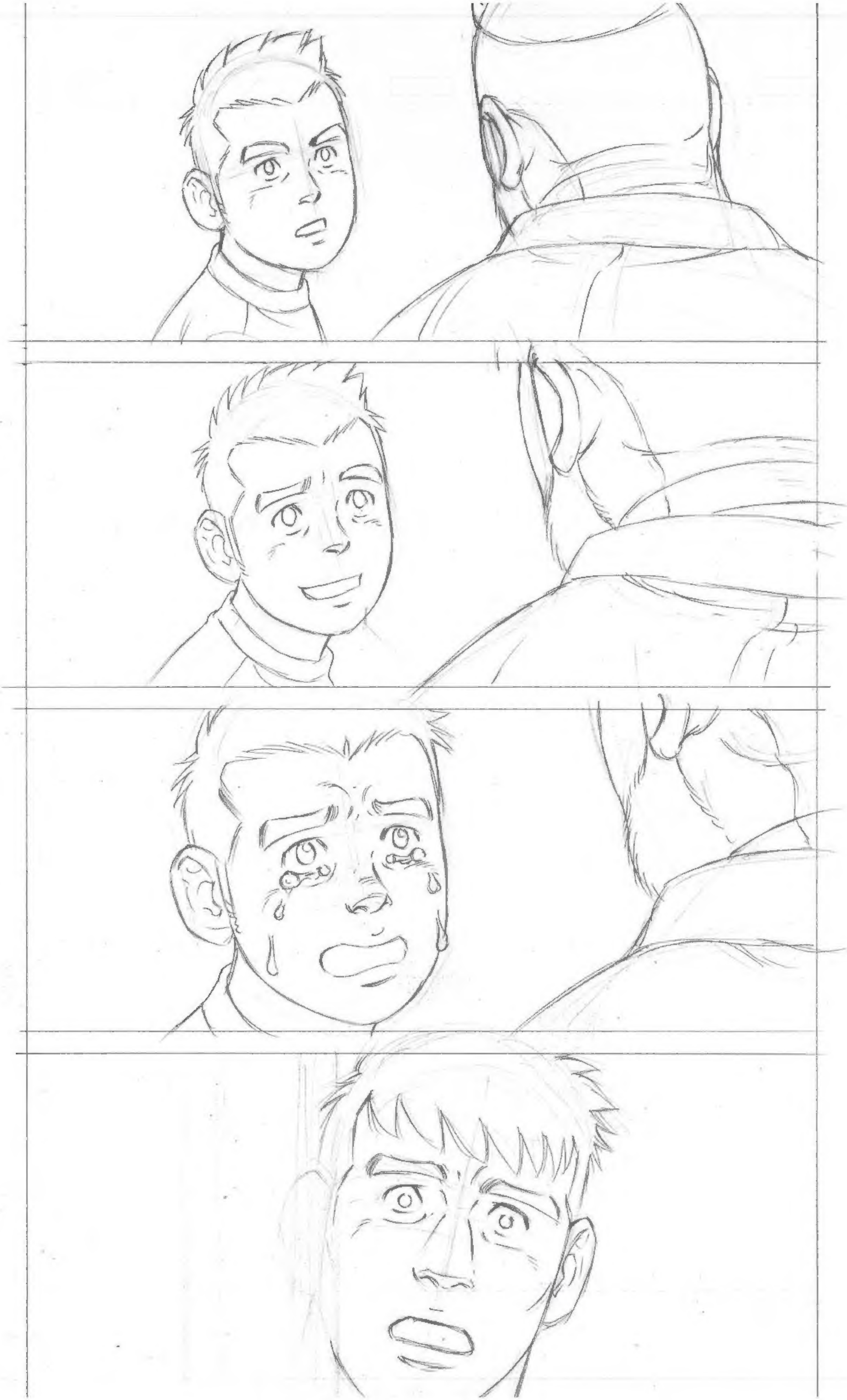


カナもマイも好き同士ならハグー！

ハイカナちゃんのこと大好き
わーすごーい！

ゆ
どっかで
休憩して
いこうか

子供は
いいなぁ
余計な
ことは
考えない
から



だんだん
つらくなっ
てきて…

どうしたら
いいか
判んなく
なっちゃって